


Financial Investigation Events Log

Case Number: POLTD/0809/0101

Mike Wilcox

Date	Events	Initials
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Suspects name: Susan RUDKIN 2. Suspects Position held: Wife of Sub-postmaster (assistant) 3. Enquiry type: Audit shortage 4. Loss: £43,700.00 5. Office: IBSTOCK 6. Branch Code: 223/217 7. Address of Office: 118-120 High Street IBSTOCK LE67 6LJ 8. Suspects Home address: [REDACTED] GRO [REDACTED] 9. Other details: Husband senior member of federation. 	GH
21/08/08	<p>Case Summary:</p> <p>Audit Deficiency. Sub-postmaster (Michael Rudkin) is Chairman of the Negotiating Panel for the National Federation of Sub-postmasters. Branch is managed by his wife Susan Rudkin, who has admitted to the theft of £40k. Mrs Rudkin when interviewed stated that since February 2007 she covered losses and paid funds into her bank account to pay bills.</p> <p>Mrs Rudkin said that she had let things get out of control as she was running the private business, the PO counter and the sorting office staff (14 postmen). She admitted to taking PO money and paying into Lloyds Bank business accounts to meet bills. Also the inflating the cash to cover up weekly losses in the PO. It was not possible to establish a firm date when this started but she says it is since the robbery at the office some two years ago. Paperwork from office shows that the figure was around £24k short in September (2007?). Total difference in cash on audit was £43700. She confirmed that no staff were aware of what she was doing and her husband had not worked in the PO for over a year and he was unaware of the shortage until today as he played no part in running the office.</p> <p>Postmaster suspended 20/8/08</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Suspect offender report reference 1 in file 	GH
23/08/08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Interim report received reference 2 in file 	GH
23/08/08	<p>The Post Office® Network Auditors, led by Paul Field visited Ibstock Post Office® on Wednesday 20th August 2008 to conduct a verification of assets audit. After being admitted to the office the wife of the Postmaster, Mrs Susan RUDKIN requested a private word with Paul Field. She then informed him that the safe would be around £40,000 short.</p> <p>The office which has 3 HORIZON terminals and employs 5 part time staff is sited within a newsagents and general dealers in a rural village on the outskirts of Leicester. There is also a sorting office on the premises which is a base for 14 postmen.</p> <p>The office was victim to a robbery in January 2006 and the last risk based audit was undertaken on 7th December 2006.</p> <p>Mr Rudkin said that he would allow an interview to take place on his premises and said that his wife would cooperate fully with any investigation and would not require a solicitor.</p> <p>He handed me a signed admission statement, by Mrs Rudkin and informed me that at the time, the discrepancy in the account was £43856.89 which was mainly due to a shortage in the cash of £43761.17.</p> <p>conducted a tape-recorded interview with Susan RUDKIN in the private residence at Ibstock Post Office®.</p>	

	<p>During the interview Susan Rudkin explained that her husband was heavily involved in NFSP work and she felt that the pressure of running the private business, the Post Office® and the household finances had gotten too much. She said that the Post Office® had been experiencing losses and she had been inflating the cash on hand to cover it up. She also said that she had been taking cash from the Post Office® and paying it into their Lloyds bank business account to cover bills. It was not possible to establish an exact date when the theft started but she said that she had been under pressure since the robbery. Susan Rudkin said that she felt embarrassed to tell her husband about the situation and felt that she had let him down. When asked about the cash declarations she said she that she kept a running total of the shortages and just added this amount onto the daily figures. She was adamant that no one else knew what she was doing and on the occasions that other staff members declared the cash she would overwrite the figures. Susan Rudkin acknowledged that she had stolen the money from the Post Office® (although the initial intention was to repay it) and was not at present able to repay it.</p> <p>Mr & Mrs Rudkin live in a 6/7 bedroom premises attached to the Post Office® valued at around £450k. There is a £250k mortgage outstanding and the only other known debt is a credit card statement for around £10k. None of these figures can be confirmed until the usual financial check results are received.</p> <p>Mr Rudkin feels there will be no prosecution when the money is repaid and he will be reinstated in post.</p>	
26/08/08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FES reference 3 in file 	
26/08/08	<p>Analysis of FES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Premises (combined residence and shop owned by Mr & Mrs Rudkin [REDACTED] GRO [REDACTED] GRO) (Valued around £490k and £250k mortgage). • Volvo V70 [REDACTED] (Husbands car 10years old) • Vauxhall Vectra ([REDACTED] GRO) 3 1/2 years old • Lloyds TSB Credit cards [REDACTED] GRO -£10800 • Lloyds TSB 1616115 (Rudkin EM & SJ T/A Ibstock Post Office®) -£252 • Michael Rudkin Husband DOB [REDACTED] GRO Po renumeration approx £80k • Aaron Rudkin Son 21 years old • Dale Rudkin Son (n/k) 	GH
26/08/08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of GS207 reference 4 in file • Results of GS207 reference 4 in file 	GH
02/09/08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offender report reference 5 in file 	GH
03/09/08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial documents recovered at search reference 6 in file <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Credit Card statement Lloyds TSB Ernest Rudkin (master card [REDACTED] GRO) (this account has negative balance of £10,797.23 on September 2008) 2. Lloyds Current account EM and Mrs SJ Trading as IBSTOCK PO. [REDACTED] GRO (this account shows overdrawn between 2nd July and 1st august with only credit period between 31st July and 1st august.) 	GH
04/09/08	<p>Further documents received.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Copy of signed report by auditors also signed (allegedly by Susan RUDKIN) 2. GS207 in respect of [REDACTED] GRO 3. Results of GS204 in respect of Susan Rudkin ([REDACTED] GRO) 4. PNC GS202 and results 5. GS205 and results • Copy of signed report by auditors also signed (allegedly by Susan RUDKIN) reference 7 in file • GS207 in respect of ([REDACTED] GRO) reference 4 in file • Results of GS204 in respect of Susan Rudkin ([REDACTED] GRO) reference 7 in file 	GH

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PNC GS202 and results reference 7 in file GS205 and results reference 7 in file 	
04/08/08	<p>Analysis of land registry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Premises (combined residence and shop owned by Mr & Mrs Rudkin [REDACTED] GRO [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (Valued around £490k and £250k mortgage. Price said to have been paid on 30th November 2000 was £150,000 Current price (£321,119) house price calculator (not totally confident in this figure however it is all I have.) <p>Analysis of Equifax</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outstanding balances total £27,085 	GH
04/09/08	<p>Copy of tape summary reference 8 in file</p> <p>Analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Money taken from the post office and paid into the Lloyds account to pay bills Record kept of payments (where is this) 	GH
04/09/08	<p>Analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The office was victim to a robbery in January 2006 and the last risk based audit was undertaken on 7th December 2006. It is indicated that this may be the point at which the thefts may have first occurred. TC to Nikki Dummett to see the post incident file re the "robbery" Out standing debts and loans I should consider securing the loss by restraint. Sub-postmaster may or may not pay back. Could claim his share in equity and not deal with his obligations under his contract This could of course be general criminal conduct and bring the whole office into the recovery figure and as such it is currently difficult to establish her extent of benefit. Robbery was this suspicious or not. 	GH
09/09/08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telephone message from Peter Mitchell (Security Advisor) he says that there was some suspicions about the robbery in January 2006 	GH
10/09/08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considering restraint discussed with Dave Pardoe. He requested a written response from him with reasons to restrain. 	GH
11/09/08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spoke to Peter Mitchell he says that- Robbery on 5th Jan 2006 loss £58,251.80 	GH
11/09/08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written response sent reference 9 in file 	GH
11/09/08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requested and received all related documents to the robbery dated 5th Jan 2006 P2570A INCIDENT report SECURITY REPORT P32(pass word p32) All documents reference ?? in file <p>Note that from the documentation the culpability was finally (on appeal) set at £0</p>	GH
11/09/08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requested office File from Craig Thompson 	GH
18/09/08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received office file Office file reference 10 in file 	
18/09/08	<p>Email from Dave agreeing to restraint and further investigation</p> <p>Have discussed with John S and advised on our potential courses of action; please continue on both points - restraint and consideration of revisit of previous incidence. The allocated Fraud Advisor must apprise the appropriate stakeholder of the planned activity.</p> <p>Mail forwarded to Mike Wilcox</p>	GH
18/09/08	<p>TC to Juliet.</p>	GH

	Explained current position and she agrees restraint	
18/09/08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restraint docs prepared • Court arranged for 10 on 22nd • Court 1 HHJ Ainley • U20080357 	GH
22/09/08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended Court • Orders signed • Copy of statement & Order sent to S Rudkin (ZJ 2287 8799 9GB) • Copy of statement sent to Mr. Rudkin (ZJ 2287 8798 5GB) • Copy of statement & RX1 sent to Land registry (Leicester office) (ZJ 2287 8800 5GB) 	GH
22/09/08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of statement reference 11 in file • Copy of Order reference 11 in file • Copy of RX1 reference 11 in file • Copy of J392 reference 11 in file 	GH
08/10/08	<p>Charge</p> <p>"FOR THAT YOU Susan Jane Rudkin between the 1st day of January 2007 and the 20th day of August 2008 at Ibstock Post Office stole £43,894.15 belonging to Post Office Limited".</p> <p>(Contrary to Section 1(1) of the Theft Act 1968)</p>	GH
09/02/09	Mr Rudkin has been put back in post and is repaying the Post Office £1000 a month from his remuneration.	
25/02/09	<p><u>POST OFFICE LIMITED v SUSAN JANE RUDKIN</u> <u>COALVILLE MAGISTRATES COURT – 13TH MARCH 2009 AT 10AM</u> <u>CASE NO: POLTD/0809/0101</u></p>	GH
25/02/09	Section 18 prepared and forwarded to Jarnail and Mike Wilcox	GH
25/03/09	<p>Please find attached a section 18 request to be served on the defendant should she plead or be found guilty in a crown court.</p> <p>We need to ensure that our agents ask for confiscation and ask for compensation, and that they request the compensation be deferred to the outcome of any future confiscation hearing.</p> <p>With an outstanding amount for £43,894.15 the court may "incorrectly" at an early time agree confiscation and compensation and make an order at the time of the hearing without waiting for a financial report (I say incorrectly because this offence falls into the category of "General Criminal Conduct" and as such it would be impossible at this point for the court to agree the defendant's total benefit from crime). In this case the section 18 need not be served but the increase in the value of money from Jan 07 offence start to January 2009 added (this being the latest figure on hand) and a benefit, confiscation and compensation figure of £44,689.82 should be sought.</p> <p>If there is any other way I may assist please do not hesitate to contact me</p>	GH
18/03/09	<p><u>POST OFFICE LIMITED v SUSAN JANE RUDKIN</u> <u>BURTON-ON-TRENT MAGISTRATES COURT – 23RD MARCH 2009 AT 10AM</u> <u>CASE NO: POLTD/0809/0101</u></p> <p>I have now been notified by our Agent Mr John Dove that the Magistrates agreed to transfer the case out of the Leicestershire jurisdiction that Mrs Rudkin is not only married to a Magistrate who currently sits on the Coalville Bench [REDACTED] GRO [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED] GRO [REDACTED] The case has therefore been transferred into the neighbouring Staffordshire and the case is to be heard at Burton-on-Trent Magistrates Court on the 23rd March 2009 at 10am.</p>	GH
23/04/09	<u>REGINA v SUSAN JANE RUDKIN</u> <u>STAFFORD CROWN COURT</u>	GH

	<p><u>SENTENCE – 1ST MAY 2009 AT 10.30AM</u></p> <p><u>CASE NO: POLTD/0809/0101</u></p> <p>I have now been notified that the above case is listed for Sentence at Stafford Crown Court on the 1st May 2009 at 10.30am.</p> <p>The prosecution will be conducted by our Agent Mr John H Dove, Solicitor Advocate of 9 Apley Mews, Apley Hall, Stockton, Shropshire, WV15 5NE (Telephone No: <u>01952 620000</u>)</p>	
01/05/09	<p>E-mail from Mike</p> <p>Section 18 served 1/5/09</p> <p>Defence response by 29/5/09</p> <p>Prosecution response by 10/7/09</p> <p>Defence reply by 24/7/09</p> <p>Hearing set for a date (1 hour) during 17 - 21/8/09. To be confirmed by listings and agent.</p>	GH
29/05/09	No response from Rudkin for section 18	GH
09/06/09	<p>E-mail to Jarnail</p> <p>Re the above case. Rudkin was ordered by Stafford CC to respond to the section 18 by 29th May 2009.</p> <p>Have you received her affidavit yet?</p>	GH
06/07/09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 16 completed and forwarded to CLT SD item (ZJ964264720GB) 	GH
13/08/09	<p><u>REGINA v SUSAN JANE RUDKIN</u></p> <p><u>STAFFORD CROWN COURT</u></p> <p><u>CONFISCATION PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE PROCEEDS OF CRIME ACT -</u></p> <p><u>19TH AUGUST 2009</u></p> <p><u>CASE NO: POLTD/0809/0101</u></p> <p>I have now received a notification that on a request from Defence Counsel and also our Counsel Ms Henrietta Paget has no objection the case has now been listed for hearing on the 19th August 2009.</p>	GH
17/08/09	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Spoke with Ms Henrietta Paget, she says that there was an undertaking given in court that there would not be a POCA request for any figure greater than the loss. She says that this could be argued in court but that the outcome would not be certain and that there could be some criticism of POLTD. She suggested that I consider our position and if I should accept this position or go for the extended benefit figure. She further stated that there was a significant document from the defence which had yet to be passed to me by Jarnail Spoke to Julian and informed him of the position. He agrees that we should not press the extended benefit figure. 	GH
18/08/09	Confirmed with Late accounts (53092132) that Rudkin has paid back £8,000 since December 2008.	GH
19/08/09	<p>Stafford CC Confiscation Hearing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benefit figure £43,894.15 Available amount £35,894.15 (SPM had paid back £8,000) Confiscation £35,894.15 Compensation £35,894.15 6 months to pay Default sentence 15 months Restraint discharged 	GH
24/08/09	Restraint discharge and RX4 sent to land registry. ZJ 9642 6188 7GB	GH
01/03/10	<p><u>REGINA v SUSAN JANE RUDKIN</u></p> <p><u>STAFFORD CROWN COURT</u></p> <p><u>SATISFACTION OF CONFISCATION ORDER</u></p>	GH

	<u>CASE NO: POLTD/0809/0101</u> I have heard from Stafford Crown Court who has informed me that the application for extension of the Confiscation Order has been granted and the time extended to 18 th August 2010 pursuant to Section 11(5) POCA.	
20/04/10	• Case handed over to Paul Southin • Track recovery against the order and then close	GH
07/07/10	Confirmed with Chesterfield that £6K has been received from Mr Rudkin via deductions from remuneration. Letter sent to the West Midlands RART team to this effect reduces confiscation order debt to £29,894.15.	GW
16/08/10	Defence asking for further time to pay – possible certificate of inadequacy E-mail sent to CLT – Jarnail Singh	GW
23/08/10 EMAIL FROM JSX	<u>DEADLINE FOR SATISFACTION OF THE CONFISCATION ORDER - 18TH AUGUST 2010</u> <u>CASE NO: POLTD/0809/0101</u> I refer to our conversation and confirm that the outstanding Confiscation Order deadline has passed on the 18 th August 2010. I have accordingly written to Stafford Crown Court to have the matter listed for hearing. Once I have heard from the Court with the hearing date I will notify you.	GW
25/08/10 Email from RART	Good morning Graham I have just been speaking to Jarnail Singh, lawyer from the Post Office asking for the defendant of Susan Rudkin to be listed for court at Birmingham Magistrates' Court. I did say that they are trying to sell their property. I have given him a date of 30.11.2010 at 2pm, Birmingham Magistrates' Court. Is this ok with you? I have not sent the summons as yet so if you could let me know if you agree with a court date. Regards Sarah	
22/12/10	e-mail received from RART team. Case has been adjourned to the 10 th Feb 2011. Have e-mailed CLT (Jarnail) to suggest counsel is appointed in this case to push the enforcement to a conclusion.	GW
07/02/10	Spoke with Sarah Warrington – advised her that no-one from PO will be attending on the 10 th . She will advise me of the outcome.	GW
08/02/11 email received	RE: Susan Rudkin You telephoned yesterday regarding the above. The solicitors put in a request to have the case adjourned from Thursday 10 th Feb. Our legal advisors have now granted this request and the case has now been adjourned to Thursday 24 th March 2011 at 10am. Regards Sarah Sarah Warrington Senior Caseworker West Midlands Regional Confiscation Unit	GW
18/03/2011	Phonecall from Daniel Hillman (Magistrates Enforcement Lawyer) who appraised latest position. In short	GW

	the matter is now listed for the 2 nd June 11, by which time it is expected that the order will have been paid in full (son is obtaining a bridging loan allegedly) if the matter is unresolved it is anticipated that a default sentence will be imposed)	
30/06/11	Kam at RART informed me that case has been re-listed for enforcement 11 th August 2011.	GW
26/07/11	e-mail from Kam (RART) confirms £28.5K received 12/07/11	GW
27/02/12	<p>Hi Graham</p> <p>Susan Rudkin's case at Birmingham Magistrates' Court has been adjourned to 17 May 2012 at 10am.</p> <p>Regards, Matt</p> <p>Matthew Bagnall Caseworker West Midlands Regional Confiscation Unit Tel: GRO</p>	GW
13/03/12	Confirmed via JARD that £35,899.15 has now been paid and all that is outstanding is the interest accrued £2,209.70	GW
10/04/12	Confirmed via JARD that case has now been closed by the RART following receipt of the interest accrued. POCA confiscation order now satisfied.	GW

From: Glenn Chester
Sent: 23 November 2010 11:15
To: David Sears
Cc: Anita Bravata; Lin Norbury; John Breeden
Subject: FW: Temp SPMR Ibstock

David

As discussed, I spoke with Mike Rudkin today and asked him if he was willing to allow another temp to use the branch. Mr Rudkin informed me that he was but due to the fact that he is currently experiencing serious financial difficulties he would be looking to charge rent commensurate with the market value of the business and would also need the temp to pick up the utility costs for the business ie. Electric/Gas/Water, which are currently in the region of £5k per annum. Mr Rudkin also informed me that there are 5 members of staff working in the Post Office. There is a full-time member of staff (Sue Ball) and 4 part-timers and the annual wage cost is in the region of £32-33k per annum. I hope this information is of some help.

Kind Regards

Glenn Chester
Contract Manager

From: michael rudkin
Sent: 23 November 2010 09:58
To: Glenn Chester

GRO

Cc: 'Charlotte Knight'; Peter Wilkinson; 'Hughes, Dianne'; Amanda.Glover [REDACTED] **GRO**
Subject: Temp SPMR Ibstock

F.A.O. Mr Glenn Chester (Contracts Manager POL)

Dear Glenn

I, like you, have been informed by Mr. David Burchell of his resignation (Friday 19th November 2010) as temporary Sub-Postmaster at Ibstock Post Office (223-217-0) LE67 6LJ. David kindly informed me his tenure will come to an end on Wednesday 1st December 2010 but as yet I have not heard from anyone at Post Office Ltd regarding the continuity of services at the premises of Ibstock Post Office – [REDACTED] **GRO**

It would benefit all the parties involved if dialog is entered into as soon as possible as to the future of Ibstock Post Office and I await your response with anticipation.

Kind Regards
Michael Rudkin

Ibstock Post Office & Newsagents

[REDACTED] **GRO**
Business - [REDACTED] **GRO** Mobile - [REDACTED] **GRO**
michaelrudkin [REDACTED] **GRO**

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From: Glenn Chester
Sent: 19 November 2010 19:36
To: David Sears
Subject: RE: Ibstock 223217 Post Office - Resignation of current Temporay Subpostmaster
Sensitivity: Confidential

David

Many thanks for your e-mail. Anyone wishing to take up the appointment as temporary subpmr would need to negotiate the use of the premises with Mike Rudkin (former Subpmr). Mr Rudkin can be contacted on [REDACTED] **GRO**. Apologies, I am aware that there are some staff working at the branch but I don't know how many hours they work/or what rate of pay they're on.

Kind Regards

Glenn

Glenn Chester
Contract Manager

Post Office Ltd
Upper Floors
The Markets Crown Office
6-16 New York St
Leeds
LS2 7DZ

Telephone: [REDACTED] **GRO**

From: David Sears
Sent: 19 November 2010 14:23
To: Outlet Field Support; Glenn Chester
Cc: NSA HoBD46
Subject: FW: Ibstock 223217 Post Office - Resignation of current Temporay Subpostmaster
Importance: High
Sensitivity: Confidential

OUTLET FIELD SUPPORT

Please arrange for a transfer/closure audit for Wednesday 01/12/2010 (see email below). I will attempt to find a temp and advise nearer the date who temp will be.

Glenn

Do you know if there are any staff and also who any Temp would need to negotiate with.

David

From: Glenn Chester
Sent: 19 November 2010 13:43
To: NSA HoBD46; David Sears
Cc: John Breeden
Subject: FW: Ibstock Post Office - Resignation of current Temporay Subpostmaster

NSA Team

As can be seen from the e-mail below, Mr David Burchell (current temporary subpostmaster, Ibstock branch) has tendered his resignation and would like his last day of service to be Wednesday 1 December 2010. I would be very grateful if you could please acknowledge his resignation – can you please arrange for the letter to be sent to Glenfield Post Office, which is his substantive branch. In addition, I would be grateful if you could please arrange for a MUF to be completed notifying all interested parties of Mr Burchell's last day of service.

David

As discussed today, please be advised that Mr Burchell (current temporary subpostmaster, Ibstock branch) has tendered his resignation and would like his last day of service to be Wednesday 1 December 2010. Can you please put the necessary steps in progress to try and secure the services of another temporary subpostmaster.

Many thanks.

Regards

Glenn Chester
Contract Manager

Post Office Ltd
Upper Floors
The Markets Crown Office
6-16 New York St
Leeds
LS2 7DZ

Telephone: GRO

From: David Burchell [REDACTED] **GRO**
Sent: 19 November 2010 13:30
To: Glenn Chester
Subject: Ibstock Post Office

Dear Glenn

After ten months, some OK but the majority full of problems of one sort or another I have decided to give you notice to quit at Ibstock post office.

I only agreed to become temporary SPM in order to try and help Michael out of the financial difficulties he was having,

The whole of the salary after wages went to Michael and I have not taken anything for myself, the agreement between us was simply that he would do everything he could to assist me where possible.

Unfortunately there have been problems on occasions with the balancing of the lottery and the pay station, which are on the retail counter.

Although I have been able to overcome these problems the situation has created a atmosphere of mistrust between us all including the staff.

I have always had a good relationship with the staff who Michael has continued to pay under their contract of employment with him. and their commitment to the job under the circumstances has been commendable.

As well as the problems I have mentioned the staff are now unhappy with the reluctance of Michael to pay them for the total hours they are working.

My contracts provider has advised me not to take on the staff if I am not taking an income out of the business and although I would in different circumstances have no problem employing them, I must take the professional advice I have been given.

Although my resignation from Ibstock may well mean even more financial hardship for Michael I am not prepared to continue within the same premises, as the breakdown in trust between all of us has proved one hurdle too many.

My last day at Ibstock will be on Wednesday 1st December.

I have not informed anyone yet of my decision as I have tried to speak to you first but unable to contact you as yet.

I would also appreciate that this remains confidential.

Kind Regards

David