

**Financial Investigation Events Log**

Case Number: POLTD/0809/0101
Mike Wilcox

Date	Events	Initials
	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: GRO 9. Other details: Husband senior member of federation.	GH
21/08/08	Case Summary: 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. 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. Postmaster suspended 20/8/08 • Suspect offender report reference 1 in file	GH
23/08/08	• Interim report received reference 2 in file	GH
23/08/08	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. 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. The office was victim to a robbery in January 2006 and the last risk based audit was undertaken on 7th December 2006. 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. 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. conducted a tape-recorded interview with Susan RUDKIN in the private residence at Ibstock Post Office®. 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. Mr & Mrs Rudkin live [REDACTED] GRO [REDACTED] 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. Mr Rudkin feels there will be no prosecution when the money is repaid and he will be reinstated in post.	
26/08/08	• FES reference 3 in file	

26/08/08	Analysis of FES - Premises [GRO] shop owned by Mr & Mrs Rudkin 118-120 High Street Ibstock LE67 6LJ (Valued around £490k and £250k mortgage. - Volvo V70 [GRO] (Husbands car 10years old) - Vauxhall Vectra [GRO] 3 1/2 years old - lloyds TSB Credit cards [GRO] [GRO] (Mr E M Rudkin) -£10800 - lloyds TSB [GRO] (Rudkin EM & SJ T/A Ibstock Post Office©) -£252 - Michael Rudkin Husband [GRO] Po renumeration approx £80k [GRO] [GRO]	GH
26/08/08	- Copy of GS207 reference 4 in file - Results of GS207 reference 4 in file	GH
02/09/08	Offender report reference 5 in file	GH
03/09/08	- Financial documents recovered at search reference 6 in file 1. Credit Card statement Lloyds TSB Ernest Rudkin [GRO] (this account has negative balance of £10,797.23 on September 2008) 2. Lloyds Current account EM and Mrs SJ Trading as [GRO] [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	Further documents received. - Copy of signed report by auditors also signed (allegedly by Susan RUDKIN) - GS207 in respect of 118-120 High Street IBSTOCK LE67 6LJ - Results of GS204 in respect of Susan Rudkin [GRO] - PNC GS202 and results - GS205 and results - Copy of signed report by auditors also signed (allegedly by Susan RUDKIN) reference 7 in file - GS207 in respect of 118-120 High Street IBSTOCK LE67 6LJ reference 4 in file - Results of GS204 in respect of Susan Rudkin (DOB 14/02/1955) reference 7 in file - PNC GS202 and results reference 7 in file - GS205 and results reference 7 in file	GH
04/08/08	Analysis of land registry - Premises [GRO] shop owned by Mr & Mrs Rudkin 118-120 High Street Ibstock LE67 6LJ (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	GH

	figure however it is all I have.) Analysis of Equifax Outstanding balances total £27,085	
04/09/08	Copy of tape summary reference 8 in file Analysis - 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	Analysis - 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	Telephone message from Peter Mitchell (Security Advisor) he says that there was some suspicions about the robbery in January 2006	GH
10/09/08	Considering restraint discussed with Dave Pardoe. He requested a written response from him with reasons to restrain.	GH
11/09/08	- Spoke to Peter Mitchell he says that- Robbery on 5th Jan 2006 loss £58,251.80	GH
11/09/08	Written response sent reference 9 in file	GH
11/09/08	- 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 Note that from the documentation the culpability was finally (on appeal) set at £0	GH
11/09/08	Requested office File from Craig Thompson	GH
18/09/08	- Received office file Office file reference 10 in file	
18/09/08	Email from Dave agreeing to restraint and further investigation 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	GH

	Fraud Advisor must apprise the appropriate stakeholder of the planned activity. Mail forwarded to Mike Wilcox	
18/09/08	TC to Juliet. Explained current position and she agrees restraint	GH
18/09/08	• Restraint docs prepared • Court arranged for 10 on 22nd • Court 1 HHJ Ainley • U20080357	GH
22/09/08	• 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	• 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	Charge "FOR THAT YOU Susan Jane Rudkin between the 1 st day of January 2007 and the 20 th day of August 2008 at Ibstock Post Office stole £43,894.15 belonging to Post Office Limited". (Contrary to Section 1(1) of the Theft Act 1968)	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	<u>POST OFFICE LIMITED v SUSAN JANE RUDKIN</u> <u>COALVILLE MAGISTRATES COURT - 13TH MARCH 2009 AT 10AM</u> CASE NO: POLTD/0809/0101	GH
25/02/09	Section 18 prepared and forwarded to Jarnail and Mike Wilcox	GH
25/03/09	Please find attached a section 18 request to be served on the defendant should she plead or be found guilty in a crown court. 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. 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	GH

	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. If there is any other way I may assist please do not hesitate to contact me	
18/03/09	<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> 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 Magistrates who currently sits on the Coalville Bench but Mr Rudkin himself is being prosecuted also in Coalville by Leicester County Council's Trading Standards Department. 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.	GH
23/04/09	<u>REGINA v SUSAN JANE RUDKIN</u> <u>STAFFORD CROWN COURT</u> <u>SENTENCE - 1ST MAY 2009 AT 10.30AM</u> <u>CASE NO: POLTD/0809/0101</u> 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. The prosecution will be conducted by our Agent Mr John H Dove, Solicitor Advocate of 9 Apley Mews, Apley Hall, Stockton, Shropshire, WV15 5NE <u>GRO</u>	GH
01/05/09	E-mail from Mike Section 18 served 1/5/09 Defence response by 29/5/09 Prosecution response by 10/7/09 Defence reply by 24/7/09 Hearing set for a date (1 hour) during 17 - 21/8/09. To be confirmed by listings and agent.	GH
29/05/09	No response from Rudkin for section 18	GH
09/06/09	E-mail to Jarnail Re the above case. Rudkin was ordered by Stafford CC to respond to the section 18 by 29th May 2009. Have you received her affidavit yet?	GH
06/07/09	• Section 16 completed and forwarded to CLT • SD item (ZJ964264720GB)	GH
13/08/09	<u>REGINA v SUSAN JANE RUDKIN</u> <u>STAFFORD CROWN COURT</u> <u>CONFISCATION PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE PROCEEDS OF CRIME ACT -</u> <u>19TH AUGUST 2009</u> <u>CASE NO: POLTD/0809/0101</u> 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	GH

	2009.	
17/08/09	1. 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 2. 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	Stafford CC Confiscation Hearing • 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	<u>REGINA v SUSAN JANE RUDKIN</u> <u>STAFFORD CROWN COURT</u> <u>SATISFACTION OF CONFISCATION ORDER</u> <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.	GH
20/04/10	• Case handed over to Paul Southin • Track recovery against the order and then close	GH
22/08/11	• Balance of the compensation order received (£28,500.00) and banked. Case to be formally closed.	PS