Memo

Royal Mail

6 October 2005

Ms Natasha Bernard
[redacted]

Corporate Security
GRO
[redacted]

POST OFFICE LTD -v- OYETEJU ADEDAYO
CASE POLTD/0506/0336

In my opinion the evidence is sufficient to afford a realistic prospect of conviction of the above named on the charges set out on the attached Schedule. It is considered that there is a medium prospect of success in this matter. Any defence put forward by the Defendant is likely to be based on her lack of dishonesty.

The remaining admitted offences namely the falsification of the weekly cash accounts other than those charged in June, July and August can be dealt with as offences to be taken into consideration after conviction. Please ensure the TIC's are ready for the first hearing.

In view of the serious breach of trust involved in this case and the amount of money "borrowed" by the Defendant, this Offender should be prosecuted.

This case is, in my opinion, more suitable for trial in the Magistrates Court. When the decision has been taken please return the papers to obtain summonses.

In order to comply with the Guidelines issued by the Home Office which restrict the time between completion of investigation and laying of information, I would ask that you ensure that the decision is made within 5 working days of receipt of the papers by you.

No further statements need be obtained at this stage.

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If the Defendant should enter no plea or plead not guilty, Natasha Bernard should obtain and associate all necessary statements and exhibits. I list below the statements which appear to be necessary in this case, but Natasha should also consider whether there are any other areas which can usefully be covered and include any such evidence.

1 Statement from the Retail Line Manager dealing with the length of time that the Defendant was the Sub Postmaster of Rainham Road SPOB. The relevant portion of her contract should be produced (the fact that post office funds could not be used for private purposes).

2 Statement from Mr Deepak Valani dealing with the audit. He should produce both his audit notes and the handwritten note given to him by the Defendant.

3 Statements from Natasha Bernard and Adrian Morris dealing with their role in the investigation.

In this event, please prepare one set of typed copies of those statements and exhibits. Please also prepare typed draft lists of statements and exhibits (statements to appear in chronological order and exhibits in the same order in which they are produced by the witnesses). A separate typed list of witnesses, showing their addresses, should also be supplied.

As this investigation commenced after 4 April 2005, the changes to the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996 and the revised Code of Practice will apply to this case. Section 32 of the Criminal Justice Act amalgamates into one the two stage disclosure test. This means the primary and secondary disclosure stages are replaced by a single objective test to be applied throughout the life of a case. The Prosecution must disclose to the accused any prosecution material which has not previously been disclosed to the accused and which might reasonably be considered capable of undermining the case for the prosecution against the accused or of assisting the case for the accused. If Natasha Bernard is aware of any such material, I would be grateful if I could be provided with the details at this stage.

Kindly also advise in the event that the audit shortage is made good.

Counsel will be instructed to prosecute this matter. Please liaise with our General Office on [redacted] before fixing a date of hearing.

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Debbie Helszajn
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