POL00066743

File name: Peter HOLMES - POLTD-0809-0128 Peter Holmes Tape 1 of 2 Tape No. 071706.mp3

Audio quality: Good

Moderator questions in Bold, Respondents in Regular text.

KEY: **Unable to decipher** = (inaudible + timecode), **Phonetic spelling** = (ph + timecode), **Missed word** = (mw + timecode), **Talking over each other** = (talking over each other + timecode).

(TC: 00:00:05)
Robert Daley: This interview is being tape recorded. My name is Robert Daley. My colleague is Chris Knight. We are officers of Post Office Limited employed to investigate possible criminal offences. Also present is Peter Holmes, err, Post Office manager of Jesmond Post Office. The date is the 19th of September 2008, the time is 14:11 hours. This interview is being conducted in the lounge area of GRO **It's the home and office of-, sorry, the office of, err, the subpostmaster Mr Sunil Khan (ph 00.45). Err, Peter, I want to ask you some questions about account irregularities, err, more so the shortage of, of £46,000.53 and one pence, err, discovered at audit on Thursday the 18th of September 2008. At the end of the interview we'll give you a notice explaining what will happen to the tapes. Have you any objection to the interview being tape recorded?**

(TC: 00:01:08)
Peter Holmes: No.

(TC: 00:01:10)
Robert Daley: Okay. For voice and identification purposes, err, will you please state your full name and date of birth?

(TC: 00:01:16)
Peter Holmes: Peter Anthony Holmes GRO

(TC: 00:01:19)
Robert Daley: Robert Daley.

(TC: 00:01:21)
Christopher Knight: Err, Christopher Knight.

(TC: 00:01:26)
Robert Daley: There are forms here. Right, I'm just going through your legal rights again here.

(TC: 00:01:34)
Peter Holmes: Yeah.

(TC: 00:01:34)
Robert Daley: Yeah. Now, err, because you're suspected of committed a criminal offence which may result in a criminal prosecution, I must inform you that you do not have to say anything but it may harm your defence if you do not mention when questioned something which you later rely on in court. Anything you do say may be given in evidence. Do you understand?

(TC: 00:01:51)
Peter Holmes: Yes.

(TC: 00:01:50)
Robert Daley: Yes, okay. If I can just get you to fill in this form, you just go over to the back of it. I know prior to the interview, err, you were cautioned and you were given your legal rights. If you'd just like to put the time and date up the top, the time being 14:13 hours. And if you just read that. The next part here it says, 'I confirm that I've been re-cautioned and reminded of my legal rights.' You are not under arrest and you are free to go. And the next part is if you wish to speak to a solicitor or do not want to speak to a solicitor. Just this bit up here, sorry, first.

(TC: 00:02:44)
Peter Holmes: (inaudible 02.44).

(TC: 00:02:45)
Robert Daley: This, this part here. Sorry, you're gonna fill that in anyway, you still do not want to speak to a solicitor at this time?

(TC: 00:02:49)
Peter Holmes: Right, yeah.

(TC: 00:02:51)
Robert Daley: And that's a police and criminal evidence book discussed earlier on. And the next bit you were starting to fill in there was if you do not want to speak to a solicitor at this time you can change your mind at any time during the interview, do you understand?

(TC: 00:03:04)
Peter Holmes: Yeah.

(TC: 00:03:05)
Robert Daley: Okay. Peter Anthony Holmes has completed form SC001. Thank you for that. Okay, I know, err, previously before we went and carried out a search which we'll discuss in tape. You were asked if you want a friend present during the interview, err, and you declined at that point, err, for the search. Err, do you still wish to have a friend present?

(TC: 00:03:33)
Peter Holmes: No.

(TC: 00:03:34)
Robert Daley: No. I'll just ask you to fill this out regarding the interview. As it says at the top, during the interview you can have a friend present if you wish. Okay, 14:15. Okay, Peter Holmes is actually completed and signed form GS003. Right, Peter, just before we go into start getting come background information from you I just want to cover what's happened so far. Err, you've got your notebook there, Chris?

(TC: 00:04:33)
Christopher Knight: Mmm.

(TC: 00:04:35)
Robert Daley: I'll just do that. Yeah, at 1200 hours, err, today the 19/09/09 at the home address of Mr Sunil Khan, sub-postmaster Jesmond, err, SPSO Newcastle, Mr Peter Holmes (inaudible 04.52) SPSO attended, err, Mr Robert Daley a fraud investigator Post Office Limited, introduce himself-, myself and, err, Chris to Mr Holmes. Mr Holmes was then cautioned. Form CS001 legal advice completed. Form CS003 friends at interview form completed. Err, not require a solicitor, no friend, err, required. And we then asked you if, err-, to allow (mw 05.22) to search of your home premises.

(TC: 00:05:22)
Peter Holmes: Yeah.

(TC: 00:05:23)
Robert Daley: Err, which, err, you gave to us. Err, and you filled in forms GS005A, which was, err, to allow your car to be searched. Just put all this-, and you'd also GS005, that was allowing the search of your premises, err, of which you are the owner along with your wife.

(TC: 00:05:53)
Peter Holmes: Yeah.

(TC: 00:05:54)
Robert Daley: And, err, there was no-, nothing, err, found in your car. However, several details were found in your home address which I discussed with you off tape and you agreed, err, with those. Being Barclays bank giro credit books, which five of those, err, err, Barclays current, err, Platinum current account statements and, err, Horizon transaction logs and Horizon receipts, err, for Jesmond Post Office. Do you agree with that?

(TC: 00:06:21)
Peter Holmes: Yes.

(TC: 00:06:22)
Robert Daley: Thank you. Err, and in between then there was no discussions taken place with regards to this enquiry?

(TC: 00:06:28)
Peter Holmes: No.

(TC: 00:06:31)
Robert Daley: If we just get some background from you, err, Peter. Err, we know your home address is GRO Err, how long have you worked in Jesmond Post Office for?

(TC: 00:06:39)
Peter Holmes: Ten years.

(TC: 00:06:42)
Robert Daley: And how'd you come to working there?

(TC: 00:06:46)
Peter Holmes: Um, I was approached by Mr Canner while I was doing holiday relief at another Post Office because he was setting this one up as an amalgamation of two that were closing in the area.

(TC: 00:06:58)
Robert Daley: Okay. And what kind of training were you given? Were you given any when you came to-

POL00066743

(TC: 00:07:05)
Peter Holmes: Typical Post Office training.

(TC: 00:07:06)
Robert Daley: Yeah. And what other offices have you actually worked at?

(TC: 00:07:09)
Peter Holmes: Um, I had me own down at Monkseaton for, phew, six or seven years. And then holiday relief after that in lots of them, um, which one? Wingate in County Durham.

(TC: 00:07:26)
Robert Daley: Yeah.

(TC: 00:07:27)
Peter Holmes: Um, Wilton Drive, Monkseaton.

(TC: 00:07:32)
Robert Daley: So, you've had quite a few?

(TC: 00:07:34)
Peter Holmes: Um. Ah, there was a County Durham one opposite, um, Durham car wash and-, I forget the name of that one.

(TC: 00:07:46)
Robert Daley: Right, so you-

(TC: 00:07:46)
Peter Holmes: And I was there for, err, five or six month, um.

(TC: 00:07:50)
Robert Daley: So, you've been at different-

(TC: 00:07:52)
Peter Holmes: All, all over the place really.

POL00066743

(TC: 00:07:52)
Robert Daley: Yeah, you've been quite a few. The Monkseaton one, err, when were you there? When did you have that office?

(TC: 00:08:03)
Peter Holmes: Um, (inaudible 08.05), 62-, About 1985.

(TC: 00:08:21)
Robert Daley: 1985.

(TC: 00:08:22)
Peter Holmes: For six or seven years.

(TC: 00:08:27)
Robert Daley: Right. Is that when you first, err, worked in a Post Office, 1985?

(TC: 00:08:30)
Peter Holmes: Yes.

(TC: 00:08:31)
Robert Daley: So, you've had over-, you've had over 20 years'-

(TC: 00:08:33)
Peter Holmes: My memory's not very good, but, but yes, that's, that's about the time when I went there.

(TC: 00:08:37)
Robert Daley: So, you've had over 20 years' experience, 23 years' experience working at Post Offices?

(TC: 00:08:40)
Peter Holmes: Yeah.

(TC: 00:08:41)
Robert Daley: Yeah. And then you've got, err, you've had (mw 08.46) cash accounts and you've

had Horizon weekly cash accounts.

(TC: 00:08:49)
Peter Holmes: Yes.

(TC: 00:08:50)
Robert Daley: And more so you've come onto Horizon-

(TC: 00:08:52)
Peter Holmes: (inaudible 08.54) monthly one.

(TC: 00:08:53)
Robert Daley: Branch trading periods.

(TC: 00:08:54)
Peter Holmes: Yeah.

(TC: 00:08:54)
Robert Daley: Yeah. Okay. And your experience with Horizon, how would you-, how would you rate it?

(TC: 00:09:02)
Peter Holmes: Very slow, um, it's okay, it's an auditor's tool. Um, that particular one we had problems with because it was connected to a telephone line that also had the fax machine connected to it.

(TC: 00:09:17)
Robert Daley: The one's that? Jesmond?

(TC: 00:09:18)
Peter Holmes: At Jesmond. And we had BT engineers in looking at the line, we had Horizon engineers in looking at the line. And eventually we had to take the fax machine out, throw it away and get a new one in, provided by Mr Canner. And now it seemed to work. But there was a time there when-,

(TC: 00:09:38)
Robert Daley: What, what-,

POL00066743

(TC: 00:09:39)
Peter Holmes: It wasn' t so slow-, it wasn' t so good. People using cards just weren' t getting through.

(TC: 00:09:44)
Robert Daley: Err, what period was that?

(TC: 00:09:46)
Peter Holmes: Um, I suppose nine month ago for three month.

(TC: 00:10:00)
Robert Daley: (TC 00:10:00) So, we're talking about beginning of this year? December?

(TC: 00:10:07)
Peter Holmes: Err, yeah, I' m not very good with times, but yes, possibly.

(TC: 00:10:12)
Robert Daley: So, possibly December for-, December, January, February.

(TC: 00:10:15)
Peter Holmes: Yeah.

(TC: 00:10:16)
Robert Daley: Or January, February, March, round about that period.

(TC: 00:10:17)
Peter Holmes: It, it, it was about-

(TC: 00:10:18)
Robert Daley: Give or take.

(TC: 00:10:18)
Peter Holmes: The three month period with engineers coming in and looking at and going out again, and.

(TC: 00:10:22)

POL00066743

Robert Daley: Okay. And what's the hours of the Post Office?

(TC: 00:10:28)
Peter Holmes: Sorry, what?

(TC: 00:10:28)
Robert Daley: What's the hours?

(TC: 00:10:29)
Peter Holmes: Hours. Nine ' til half past five. Err, it used to be nine ' til half past five four days a week, with half days on Wednesday and Saturday. But about two month ago we lost the half day on a Wednesday, so now it' s nine ' til half past five, five days a week, and half day on a Saturday, nine ' til one.

(TC: 00:10:50)
Robert Daley: Right. And how long ago was that again, sorry?

(TC: 00:10:58)
Peter Holmes: About two month ago.

(TC: 00:10:59)
Robert Daley: Two months. July?

(TC: 00:11:05)
Peter Holmes: I think it might be slightly longer that, I think it may have been June.

(TC: 00:11:08)
Robert Daley: Possibly June.

(TC: 00:11:09)
Peter Holmes: June. I' m trying to think how long ago that was. I think possibly June.

(TC: 00:11:14)
Robert Daley: And what's your hours of working in there?

(TC: 00:11:17)

POL00066743

Peter Holmes: All the time the office is open.

(TC: 00:11:30)
Robert Daley: And who else works there?

(TC: 00:11:32)
Peter Holmes: Um, full-time Doreen Corcoran (ph 11.35).

(TC: 00:11:37)
Robert Daley: Yeah.

(TC: 00:11:38)
Peter Holmes: Part-time, err, Vicky Mitchell.

(TC: 00:11:41)
Robert Daley: Uh-huh.

(TC: 00:11:42)
Peter Holmes: And Thelma Crowand (ph 11.43).

(TC: 00:11:49)
Robert Daley: And who's the sub-postmaster?

(TC: 00:11:51)
Peter Holmes: Sunil Khan.

(TC: 00:11:52)
Robert Daley: Sunil Khan. And what does, err, Sunil Khan do in the office?

(TC: 00:11:59)
Peter Holmes: Nothing.

(TC: 00:12:04)
Robert Daley: Is the sub-postmaster, does he-, is he on the Horizon system?

POL00066743

(TC: 00:12:07)
Peter Holmes: No.

(TC: 00:12:08)
Robert Daley: No. Does he ever serve any customers?

(TC: 00:12:11)
Peter Holmes: Nope.

(TC: 00:12:14)
Robert Daley: Balance?

(TC: 00:12:15)
Peter Holmes: Nope.

(TC: 00:12:19)
Robert Daley: So basically he's a sub-postmaster in name only?

(TC: 00:12:22)
Peter Holmes: Yeah.

(TC: 00:12:25)
Robert Daley: Okay. And what is your role within the office?

(TC: 00:12:28)
Peter Holmes: Office manager.

(TC: 00:12:30)
Robert Daley: And what does that entail?

(TC: 00:12:32)
Peter Holmes: Err, looking after the staff, doing the balance at the end of the week, or the end of the month as it is.

(TC: 00:12:41)

POL00066743

Robert Daley: And what do you mean, 'looking after staff'?

(TC: 00:12:44)
Peter Holmes: Well, making sure that they're there when we want them, organising for the holidays and stuff like that.

(TC: 00:12:49)
Robert Daley: Right, so (talking over each other 12.50)-

(TC: 00:12:50)
Peter Holmes: Times and hours.

(TC: 00:12:52)
Robert Daley: You, you do the balances?

(TC: 00:12:54)
Peter Holmes: Yeah.

(TC: 00:12:57)
Robert Daley: How often do you balance now branch trading's here?

(TC: 00:12:59)
Peter Holmes: Once a month.

(TC: 00:13:01)
Robert Daley: Do you do any weekly balances?

(TC: 00:13:02)
Peter Holmes: No.

(TC: 00:13:07)
Robert Daley: And who does the balance?

(TC: 00:13:09)
Peter Holmes: Err, normally Doreen and I together until we get into the last half an hour or so when

we' re waiting for the computer, which is particularly slow, and she will go home and I' ll finish it off.

(TC: 00:13:20)
Robert Daley: Okay. So, what, what does-, what does typically Doreen do?

(TC: 00:13:25)
Peter Holmes: Um, everything until we get to the point where there' s only the paperwork to be printed by the computer. All the forms, all the reports are, are done between us.

(TC: 00:13:35)
Robert Daley: So, who would declare the cash?

(TC: 00:13:38)
Peter Holmes: Um, whoever' s there really. Um, it doesn' t necessarily have to be me, but it could well be Doreen.

(TC: 00:13:52)
Robert Daley: Right, office stock?

(TC: 00:13:54)
Peter Holmes: Err, I declare the stock. Spent the afternoon working me way through that until it' s all (talking over each other 14.00).

(TC: 00:14:00)
Robert Daley: And what about the rest and all the bits of paper, err, weekly reports etc, who does that?

(TC: 00:14:05)
Peter Holmes: Well, that's done between us until they' re all finished. And when you' re first putting on the computer you' re sitting to wait for a while until it does what it' s doing with the little egg timer turning and eventually it prints the reports.

(TC: 00:14:18)
Robert Daley: Yeah. Now, when you say it takes its time, in what way does it take its time? I mean I thought there was only problem for three months.

POL00066743

(TC: 00:14:30)
Peter Holmes: Oh, that was a problem with customers and cards.

(TC: 00:14:32)
Robert Daley: Right.

(TC: 00:14:33)
Peter Holmes: For three month. But the, the particular program is very slow. You press a button at the end of the day to get it to do its paperwork, and it goes through and it can take an hour and a half. It' s very slow.

(TC: 00:14:45)
Robert Daley: Okay. So, what time would Doreen typically go away then?

(TC: 00:14:50)
Peter Holmes: Err, half past five finish, six o' clock, phew, six-, well, half past six probably.

(TC: 00:14:59)
Robert Daley: And what time you'd be there to?

(TC: 00:15:01)
Peter Holmes: Half past seven.

(TC: 00:15:05)
Robert Daley: And the office itself, as we know, it's in the-, the pharmacy. Err, what's the opening hours of that?

(TC: 00:15:12)
Peter Holmes: Err, quarter to nine until six thirty. Err, no, they've just changed that, it' s six o' clock.

(TC: 00:15:24)
Robert Daley: So, on a Wednesday, err, trading period end?

(TC: 00:15:28)
Peter Holmes: On Wednesday now since we are doing the late full day on a Wednesday instead of shutting at one and doing our balance while the shop was open, somebody has to stay behind and it' s

normally Mr Amil Khan (ph 15.42) who stays behind.

(TC: 00:15:41)
Robert Daley: Mr Amil Khan, who's he?

(TC: 00:15:43)
Peter Holmes: He' s a brother of-, elder brother of the sub-postmaster. But he puts you under pressure because he wants to go home at six o' clock, he doesn' t want to stay ' til seven or half past.

(TC: 00:16:00)
Robert Daley: Yeah. And let's go through a typical day, err, who opens up the office in the morning?

(TC: 00:16:04)
Peter Holmes: Me.

(TC: 00:16:14)
Robert Daley: Yourself?

(TC: 00:16:15)
Peter Holmes: Yeah.

(TC: 00:16:16)
Robert Daley: Right. So-

(TC: 00:16:17)
Peter Holmes: Well, Mr Khan has already come in and lifted the blinds on the shop.

(TC: 00:16:20)
Robert Daley: Right.

(TC: 00:16:21)
Peter Holmes: He' d open the shop or put the lights on in the shop, so I ring the bell, he comes and lets me in, and I go and open the Post Office.

POL00066743

(TC: 00:16:29)
Robert Daley: What time's that normally about?

(TC: 00:16:31)
Peter Holmes: I' m normally there by half past eight.

(TC: 00:16:36)
Robert Daley: And what do you do after that, when you open the-, open the shop?

(TC: 00:16:38)
Peter Holmes: Take the stuff out the safe, stock into the, err, counter shelf so that we can use them during the day.

(TC: 00:16:45)
Robert Daley: So, that's stock and cash?

(TC: 00:16:45)
Peter Holmes: Yes.

(TC: 00:16:48)
Robert Daley: Do you put it in the drawers?

(TC: 00:16:49)
Peter Holmes: Yes.

(TC: 00:16:55)
Robert Daley: Anything else?

(TC: 00:16:58)
Peter Holmes: Err, nope. If there' s any orders in from Jesmond Travel, because we do a fair but of currency and traveller' s cheques for them, then if I get everything out and in its place in plenty of time I' ll start the first foreign currency transactions for Jasmine Travel.

(TC: 00:17:17)
Robert Daley: Okay.

POL00066743

(TC: 00:17:17)
Peter Holmes: The girls come in-, whoever's in comes in at quarter to nine. Sometimes they're a couple of minutes early, sometimes they're a couple of minutes late, but it's aimed for quarter to nine so that they can get themselves organised and ready for the customers at nine o'clock.

(TC: 00:17:30)
Robert Daley: All right. So, you take out all cash and stock and you put it into the drawers ready for the staff to come?

(TC: 00:17:38)
Peter Holmes: Yeah.

(TC: 00:17:38)
Robert Daley: How many stock units are in the office?

(TC: 00:17:40)
Peter Holmes: There is only one stock unit.

(TC: 00:17:42)
Robert Daley: And has that got any letters?

(TC: 00:17:44)
Peter Holmes: No.

(TC: 00:17:45)
Robert Daley: There's not an AA on it or a BB or CC?

(TC: 00:17:48)
Peter Holmes: Oh, on the-, yeah, on the Horizon, yeah, yeah, I believe, yeah. AA.

(TC: 00:17:52)
Robert Daley: And how many drawers are in the counter positions?

(TC: 00:17:55)
Peter Holmes: Three counter positions.

POL00066743

(TC: 00:18:01)
Robert Daley: Um, and the cash or stock, is it in one drawer, all drawers, or?

(TC: 00:18:06)
Peter Holmes: Well, each member of staff has their own cash to work with.

(TC: 00:18:10)
Robert Daley: Right.

(TC: 00:18:11)
Peter Holmes: The bulk cash is kept in the middle drawer in the back section of the drawer where it's safe and out of harm's way.

(TC: 00:18:18)
Robert Daley: So, cash in separate drawers. Anybody actually work out the middle drawer?

(TC: 00:18:22)
Peter Holmes: Yeah, there's three positions, and the middle one that's got the cash in the back of her drawer.

(TC: 00:18:34)
Robert Daley: You say bulk. How much is normally kept in there?

(TC: 00:18:38)
Peter Holmes: Um, we would keep 3000 in twenties, well, split between the three positions, you get one bundle of twenties, one bundle of tens, and then we split two bundles of fives between us.

(TC: 00:18:51)
Robert Daley: Right.

(TC: 00:18:52)
Peter Holmes: Over the three positions. And any spare would be left in the back.

(TC: 00:18:56)
Robert Daley: Is this in the bottom drawer?

POL00066743

(TC: 00:18:58)
Peter Holmes: Top drawer, but at the back of it so that it can' t be seen.

(TC: 00:19:13)
Robert Daley: So, keys to the Post Office and, err, the safe, where are they kept?

(TC: 00:19:18)
Peter Holmes: Right, they' re kept in the chemist' s, hung up on a hook on the dispensing chemist' s counter. I put them there at half past five or when we get the office shut, maybe it' s five minutes after that. And I don't see them again until the next morning when I come in at half past eight.

(TC: 00:19:41)
Robert Daley: The safes themself, do safes have time locks on them?

(TC: 00:19:44)
Peter Holmes: Err, they don' t-, they do have a time lock on them yes but they don't have a separate section inside with the extra 40 minutes.

(TC: 00:19:50)
Robert Daley: Right, so-

(TC: 00:19:51)
Peter Holmes: There was just the basic safe.

(TC: 00:19:52)
Robert Daley: What's the time locks kept on it? What time do you-

(TC: 00:19:56)
Peter Holmes: So, so that I can get in for half past eight.

(TC: 00:19:59)
Robert Daley: Right. So, it comes off at half past eight?

(TC: 00:20:00)
Peter Holmes: Yeah.

POL00066743

(TC: 00:20:00)
Robert Daley: (TC 00:20:00) Can you get in before that?

(TC: 00:20:03)
Peter Holmes: Um, wouldn't think so.

(TC: 00:20:04)
Robert Daley: Right. And after, err, half past five when it's set, can you get in after that?

(TC: 00:20:09)
Peter Holmes: Um, I don't know what time it's locked.

(TC: 00:20:15)
Robert Daley: Well, if you finish at half past five, you lock the safe.

(TC: 00:20:18)
Peter Holmes: Yeah.

(TC: 00:20:18)
Robert Daley: Can anyone get-, then get into that safe once the time lock's on?

(TC: 00:20:21)
Peter Holmes: I, I don't-, there are times when I don't set it for exactly half past five in, in an evening.

(TC: 00:20:27)
Robert Daley: Right.

(TC: 00:20:29)
Peter Holmes: Um, one of the-, one-, I mean I've been thinking it-, worrying about this for a while, um, one of the things that gets me is that the keys are there on-

(TC: 00:20:39)
Robert Daley: Are they not kept secure?

(TC: 00:20:41)

Peter Holmes: No. They hang up just behind the counter. On Wednesday night when I left-

(TC: 00:20:46)
Robert Daley: What Wednesday?

(TC: 00:20:46)
Peter Holmes: I put the keys on the hook. That was the Wednesday before the auditors arrived on the Thursday morning. So, that' s seven days ago, 17th.

(TC: 00:20:52)
Robert Daley: (talking over each other 20.52) Yeah.

(TC: 00:20:56)
Peter Holmes: I put the keys on the hook as, as is normal practice. When I came in the next morning the three auditors were with us, and Sunil, and he handed me the two safe keys and he took the office keys out of his pocket. I don’t know why. I' m saying nothing, you know, I' m, I' m not trying to accuse the guy, but that’s just the situation on that Thursday morning when the three auditors were there. He give me the two safe keys separately and took the office keys out of his pocket. I wouldn’t mind knowing if anybody has been into that safe in an evening after I’ve locked it.

(TC: 00:21:37)
Robert Daley: What time d' you lock it on the Wednesday?

(TC: 00:21:40)
Peter Holmes: Err, depends whether we' re on a short balance or a long balance, um-

(TC: 00:21:43)
Robert Daley: That Wednesday there.

(TC: 00:21:43)
Peter Holmes: But this Wednesday was a short balance.

(TC: 00:21:46)
Robert Daley: (inaudible 21.46)

(TC: 00:21:46)

POL00066743

Peter Holmes: So, it would be about ten to six, quarter to six.

(TC: 00:21:54)
Robert Daley: You got a phone number for (inaudible 21.55)? Um-

(TC: 00:21:57)
Christopher Knight: So, did you have the alarm code? Because in, in the Post Office area there's an alarm isn't there?

(TC: 00:22:02)
Peter Holmes: Yeah.

(TC: 00:22:03)
Christopher Knight: Do you-, do you have the code for that?

(TC: 00:22:03)
Peter Holmes: 1085, and, and six.

(TC: 00:22:06)
Christopher Knight: I don't want to know the number.

(TC: 00:22:08)
Peter Holmes: Well, yeah, I do.

(TC: 00:22:09)
Christopher Knight: Right. And when, when, when you locked-, so when you opened the safe you obviously open it with a key don't you?

(TC: 00:22:13)
Peter Holmes: Yeah.

(TC: 00:22:13)
Christopher Knight: Is there a, a delay on it?

(TC: 00:22:15)

Peter Holmes: Err, five minutes.

(TC: 00:22:17)
Christopher Knight: Yeah. So, we, we'd get a download, see what-

(TC: 00:22:20)
Robert Daley: See if we get a download on that.

(TC: 00:22:22)
Christopher Knight: When it was opened.

(TC: 00:22:23)
Robert Daley: Err, so who else knows that alarm code?

(TC: 00:22:27)
Peter Holmes: Um, Doreen does, and Vicky-, err, sorry, Thelma does now because when I left on Thursday afternoon I was told to give her the-,

(TC: 00:22:40)
Robert Daley: Okay.

(TC: 00:22:41)
Peter Holmes: Code.

(TC: 00:22:42)
Robert Daley: And what about Vicki?

(TC: 00:22:43)
Peter Holmes: I don't think she would, no.

(TC: 00:22:45)
Robert Daley: She doesn't know, so-

(TC: 00:22:45)
Peter Holmes: They're both fairly new to us.

(TC: 00:22:46)
Robert Daley: So, it's only Doreen and yourself?

(TC: 00:22:48)
Peter Holmes: Yeah.

(TC: 00:22:49)
Christopher Knight: So, you never take the, the, the, the alarm safety, you never take that home?

(TC: 00:22:53)
Peter Holmes: No, I don't take any keys home, I leave them in the shop.

(TC: 00:22:56)
Robert Daley: Right. So, is the alarm actually linked to the safe? In the Post Office alarm linked to the safe then?

(TC: 00:23:01)
Peter Holmes: Yes.

(TC: 00:23:01)
Robert Daley: Yeah.

(TC: 00:23:02)
Christopher Knight: With a key (inaudible 23.03).

(TC: 00:23:03)
Peter Holmes: Yeah.

(TC: 00:23:03)
Robert Daley: Okay. What about Sunil, does he know the code?

(TC: 00:23:09)
Peter Holmes: He will do, yeah. I mean I've been there ten years, there has been a case when he's had to ring me at home. The, the alarm had gone off one time I believe and he wanted the safe-, the code

number, so-

(TC: 00:23:22)
Robert Daley: Did they get changed-, did it get changed after that?

(TC: 00:23:23)
Peter Holmes: It didn' t.

(TC: 00:23:24)
Robert Daley: It didn't get changed after that?

(TC: 00:23:25)
Peter Holmes: No. I' m a simple guy, I can only remember one number and it' s the number I've used for years.

(TC: 00:23:30)
Robert Daley: So, it'd be fair to say then if someone can get into the office, then it's unlikely they'd still be able to get into the safe as well?

(TC: 00:23:38)
Peter Holmes: Unlikely but I, I don' t know. Um, I presume (inaudible 23.42) could tell us.

(TC: 00:23:43)
Robert Daley: We can find it out from (mw 23.46), they'll be able to tell us quite quickly won't they?

(TC: 00:23:47)
Christopher Knight: Err, from the safe-, down on the safe, when it was opened and closed.

(TC: 00:23:50)
Robert Daley: Yeah. We can get-, we'll get that sorted out anyway. Right. Any other background questions you've got?

(TC: 00:24:09)
Christopher Knight: Err, have, have I got any?

POL00066743

(TC: 00:24:10)
Robert Daley: Yeah.

(TC: 00:24:11)
Christopher Knight: No, I haven't got any.

(TC: 00:24:11)
Robert Daley: Okay. Err, Horizon, just before we move on, Horizon, I don't want to know your password, what's your, err, user ID?

(TC: 00:24:20)
Peter Holmes: Err, P-, it's PHO001.

(TC: 00:24:25)
Robert Daley: Err, do you know the rest of the user IDs in it?

(TC: 00:24:29)
Peter Holmes: Yeah, it'll be DCO001, VMI001, and TCR001.

(TC: 00:24:45)
Robert Daley: Right, do you know anybody else's password within the office?

(TC: 00:24:47)
Peter Holmes: No.

(TC: 00:24:47)
Robert Daley: Does anybody know yours?

(TC: 00:24:49)
Peter Holmes: No.

(TC: 00:24:50)
Robert Daley: No. Okay.

(TC: 00:24:53)

Peter Holmes: Not as far as I know anyway. I can' t see how they would.

(TC: 00:24:56)
Robert Daley: Do you write your password down anywhere?

(TC: 00:24:58)
Peter Holmes: No.

(TC: 00:24:59)
Robert Daley: Okay. Right, okay, well the situation here, err, Peter, that the audit have came in on the 18th of September 2008, err, can you tell me what happened that morning?

(TC: 00:25:16)
Peter Holmes: Um, yeah, Sunil let me in, um, give me the keys, the auditors introduced themselves, I looked at their passes, went into the Post Office and let them have a go at it. And they found that there was two cash declarations made and one was well out. And at the end of the audit 46,000 odd was missing.

(TC: 00:25:41)
Robert Daley: Right, err, £46053.01.

(TC: 00:25:45)
Peter Holmes: And, yeah, and (inaudible 25.47).

(TC: 00:25:47)
Robert Daley: Yeah. So, what can you tell me about the shortage then?

(TC: 00:25:51)
Peter Holmes: I have absolutely no idea.

(TC: 00:25:53)
Robert Daley: No idea?

(TC: 00:25:54)
Peter Holmes: Absolutely no idea. Unless it' s the Horizon that' s let us down. I-, I mean there' s nobody in there storing 46,000, I haven' t got it, it' s not in my back account. Um, I spent too many years in the police

force seeing things go wrong to start stealing money from anybody. Um, I just-, I really do not know.

(TC: 00:26:16)
Robert Daley: Okay. Why is there two cash declarations then?

(TC: 00:26:19)
Peter Holmes: There was one in because I knew that we were showing short and I covered it up.

(TC: 00:26:27)
Robert Daley: Covered what up?

(TC: 00:26:29)
Peter Holmes: The fact that we were short in cash.

(TC: 00:26:30)
Robert Daley: How much by?

(TC: 00:26:31)
Peter Holmes: Not by that much. Um, I can' t remember the exact figure.

(TC: 00:26:38)
Robert Daley: Roughly?

(TC: 00:26:39)
Peter Holmes: Pfft, it, it started off as, as four or five thousand.

(TC: 00:26:51)
Robert Daley: When was that?

(TC: 00:26:54)
Peter Holmes: Oh, six or nine month ago.

(TC: 00:26:57)
Robert Daley: And you say it started off four or five thousand? What did it creep up to?

POL00066743

(TC: 00:27:02)
Peter Holmes: Well, it' s up to 46,000 now.

(TC: 00:27:05)
Robert Daley: Did you realise how much it was up to?

(TC: 00:27:07)
Peter Holmes: No.

(TC: 00:27:09)
Robert Daley: But if you didn't realise how much it was up to, why is a-, is a second cash declaration for 46,400?

(TC: 00:27:20)
Peter Holmes: Um, when you do a, um, cash variance it gives you a shortage figure, and I was adding it on. I didn' t- I didn' t get-, I didn' t look at the total. I didn' t realise it was getting as high as that, I should of done. I' m just bad with-,

(TC: 00:27:38)
Robert Daley: But Peter, the sec-, the second cash declaration has got £34,000 of twenties, and £12,400 worth of tens. So, you don't need to have input that into the system?

(TC: 00:27:51)
Peter Holmes: It was added onto every time, yeah.

(TC: 00:27:54)
Robert Daley: So, you knew it was £46,000 short? If you've had to input that into the machine.

(TC: 00:28:01)
Peter Holmes: There was a second declaration made, I, I, yeah.

(TC: 00:28:05)
Robert Daley: So, you knew it was £46,000 short?

(TC: 00:28:07)
Peter Holmes: I didn' t know the total figure.

(TC: 00:28:09)
Robert Daley: But if you've had to put those-, input those two figures into Horizon you must have known. This is against your user ID.

(TC: 00:28:19)
Peter Holmes: Yeah.

(TC: 00:28:22)
Robert Daley: So, you knew it was that amount short?

(TC: 00:28:23)
Peter Holmes: I was hoping that we were gonna get error notices back because in me heart I hoped it was something that the computer had done or hadn' t done, and I was waiting for error notices. And it got out of hand.

(TC: 00:28:36)
Robert Daley: They would have been back long before now, Peter. You're experienced a postmaster so you know that-

(TC: 00:28:40)
Peter Holmes: We' re, we' re still getting our notices a year back. They don' t-, they don' t come back as quick as that.

(TC: 00:28:45)
Robert Daley: Right, so, if it's-, if it started six or nine months ago, was it-, can you be more specific when it started?

(TC: 00:28:51)
Peter Holmes: No. Just six or nine month ago. I don’t know.

(TC: 00:28:55)
Robert Daley: Right. And you'd have shortage of 4,000 or £5,000, how much have you been adding on every month?

(TC: 00:29:04)

POL00066743

Peter Holmes: Um, I've done cash variances every so often, and there' s been three or four thousand maybe. And I still keep hoping that it was gonna be something coming back from Horizon with an error notice.

(TC: 00:29:16)
Robert Daley: Why didn't you tell Sunil about these?

(TC: 00:29:19)
Peter Holmes: Basically because if you tell them the shit' s gonna hit-, I know the shit' s hit the fan already. But they' re not the easiest guys to talk to. His elder brother is a-, I mean I don' t get on with him, he doesn' t like me, I' m not very keen on him. But he has no idea in man management, and he would just go through me. It' s gonna happen anyway, I know that, but I didn' t feel there was anybody I could approach. And I' m still waiting for error notices coming back off Horizon.

(TC: 00:29:53)
Robert Daley: I don't think they're gonna come back, Peter.

(TC: 00:29:54)
Peter Holmes: No.

(TC: 00:29:57)
Robert Daley: You know that as well don't you?

(TC: 00:29:58)
Peter Holmes: It' s, it' s gotta be a long while now, yeah. (TC 00:30:00)

(TC: 00:30:01)
Robert Daley: I mean for it go-

(TC: 00:30:02)
Peter Holmes: I mean my-,

(TC: 00:30:04)
Robert Daley: Uh huh, carry on.

(TC: 00:30:05)

Peter Holmes: My bank accounts, I've got nothing in them. I've got four or five thousand pound in me current-, in me bank account. There' s not a lot there. I haven' t got £46,000.

(TC: 00:30:17)
Robert Daley: Right. Err, well-

(TC: 00:30:20)
Christopher Knight: Do you want to mention-,

(TC: 00:30:21)
Robert Daley: I'll do the (mw 30.23) first.

(TC: 00:30:23)
Christopher Knight: Okay.

(TC: 00:30:24)
Robert Daley: Have you got the rest of these? Can I see the rest of the branch trading statements over? So, what happens at branch trading before this four or five thousand pounds, err, went missing? (mw 30.46) a problem in the office? (talking over each other 30.50)

(TC: 00:30:48)
Peter Holmes: If I was over I' d put it in.

(TC: 00:30:51)
Robert Daley: Over with what?

(TC: 00:30:51)
Peter Holmes: Sorry, if I was short I' d put it in.

(TC: 00:30:53)
Robert Daley: By how much?

(TC: 00:30:54)
Peter Holmes: Um, couple of hundred pounds sometimes.

POL00066743

(TC: 00:30:57)
Robert Daley: Why are you putting it in?

(TC: 00:31:00)
Peter Holmes: Because I'm responsible for the office basically.

(TC: 00:31:02)
Robert Daley: Is that your contract? You (inaudible 31.04) the shortage?

(TC: 00:31:04)
Peter Holmes: It's, it's not actually there no. But it was easier than creating hassle with the Canners.

(TC: 00:31:10)
Robert Daley: Right. How often have you actually put money in?

(TC: 00:31:13)
Peter Holmes: Um, most of the time everything was fine. Not very often.

(TC: 00:31:20)
Robert Daley: Right.

(TC: 00:31:22)
Christopher Knight: Sorry, can I ask you when you're-, sorry, is that all right?

(TC: 00:31:24)
Robert Daley: Yeah, go for it.

(TC: 00:31:25)
Christopher Knight: You know when you said you put money in?

(TC: 00:31:27)
Peter Holmes: Yeah.

(TC: 00:31:27)
Christopher Knight: When, when would-, when would this have been? A, as in what, you know,

once a week, or?

(TC: 00:31:32)
Peter Holmes: On the-, on the Thursday morning when-

(TC: 00:31:34)
Christopher Knight: On, on, on the branch trading?

(TC: 00:31:36)
Peter Holmes: Well, this was before branch trading. So, on the Thursday morning.

(TC: 00:31:37)
Christopher Knight: So on, on when, when you're doing the, the weekly?

(TC: 00:31:40)
Peter Holmes: Mm hmm.

(TC: 00:31:40)
Christopher Knight: Right.

(TC: 00:31:42)
Peter Holmes: Yeah.

(TC: 00:31:42)
Christopher Knight: So, that was however long ago branch trading came in, you know, couple of years ago, something like that.

(TC: 00:31:45)
Peter Holmes: I don’t quite know how long ago that was.

(TC: 00:31:48)
Christopher Knight: Right, so you would have been putting couple hundred pound in.

(TC: 00:31:49)
Peter Holmes: I have done, yeah.

POL00066743

(TC: 00:31:50)
Christopher Knight: Where would you have got that £200 from?

(TC: 00:31:53)
Peter Holmes: From me own money.

(TC: 00:31:55)
Christopher Knight: Drawn it out specifically?

(TC: 00:31:57)
Peter Holmes: Not necessarily drawn it out specifically. I pay me wife' s money from the shop into our joint account, and it' s come out of that. She wouldn't know, I wouldn't need to tell her.

(TC: 00:32:10)
Christopher Knight: Okay.

(TC: 00:32:11)
Peter Holmes: It was going into the joint account.

(TC: 00:32:13)
Robert Daley: Okay. Err, how much was the normal cash holdings for the office?

(TC: 00:32:20)
Peter Holmes: Normal cash holdings? Um-

(TC: 00:32:25)
Robert Daley: Approximately.

(TC: 00:32:26)
Peter Holmes: Well, we only had one pickup, and we could send forty odd thousand back on a Monday, sometimes over that, it depend how many giro bank customers had paid in. Err, when it left on the Monday I would leave us with about 5,000 in the safe knowing that giro bank customers would come in and pay in enough for us to do Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from there on.

(TC: 00:32:50)
Robert Daley: And were you sending money back?

(TC: 00:32:52)
Peter Holmes: It would go back on a Monday.

(TC: 00:32:53)
Robert Daley: Go back on Monday.

(TC: 00:32:54)
Peter Holmes: Monday afternoon. That was the only van that called.

(TC: 00:32:58)
Robert Daley: So, you'd roughly put about £45,000 in the office?

(TC: 00:33:02)
Peter Holmes: Yeah.

(TC: 00:33:09)
Robert Daley: Just for the benefit of the tape, I'm sitting here with branch trading statements. Err, can you-, those other ones, can I have them back please? This one's going back to 2007, this is trading period five for the financial year 2007/2008. Err, the final branch trading statement's the 25/07/2007 to the 22/08/2007. Right, it's not signed this one. But can you tell me this (inaudible 33.50).

(TC: 00:33:50)
Peter Holmes: Yeah.

(TC: 00:33:51)
Robert Daley: Just look here, you've got a cash in hand figure, and just confirm 3364.20.

(TC: 00:33:56)
Peter Holmes: 3364.20.

(TC: 00:33:58)
Robert Daley: Yeah.

POL00066743

(TC: 00:33:58)
Peter Holmes: Yeah.

(TC: 00:33:58)
Robert Daley: But down here you've got an overage of £62,280.80. But then when it says adjustments, you've scored that out and put £300. Do you know what that's about?

(TC: 00:34:11)
Peter Holmes: Going back two years?

(TC: 00:34:12)
Robert Daley: Well, year. One year.

(TC: 00:34:13)
Peter Holmes: One year.

(TC: 00:34:14)
Robert Daley: It just seemed an unusual-,

(TC: 00:34:27)
Peter Holmes: I honestly can't remember about that.

(TC: 00:34:30)
Robert Daley: Okay. (inaudible 34.32) if you maybe did something wrong but failed to declare the cash. (mw 34.36) fair to say.

(TC: 00:34:38)
Peter Holmes: Yeah, 3000, that's-, what, what date of the week's that? That's for Wednesday?

(TC: 00:34:43)
Robert Daley: That'd be the Wednesday, yeah.

(TC: 00:34:45)
Peter Holmes: Aye, it was up more than three in, on the Wednesday.

POL00066743

(TC: 00:34:47)
Robert Daley: Okay. If we move on to the next one here. This is trading period six, err, for the same financial year, 2008-, 2007/2008. Err, it's from the 22/08/2007 to 19/09/2007. Cash in hand figure, if you can just confirm it for me, 50 thousand.

(TC: 00:35:08)
Peter Holmes: 50, yeah.

(TC: 00:35:10)
Robert Daley: 50,564.45, yeah?

(TC: 00:35:12)
Peter Holmes: Yeah.

(TC: 00:35:13)
Robert Daley: Would that be an approximate amount in the office?

(TC: 00:35:20)
Peter Holmes: Um, if we could look at next week' s and see what I sent back.

(TC: 00:35:24)
Robert Daley: Err, we don't have-, well, we have what happens, these are just the branch trading statements for the month. And all you've got is your out totals, it doesn't tell you.

(TC: 00:35:36)
Peter Holmes: No.

(TC: 00:35:38)
Robert Daley: Err, that's a copy of the same one. So, we'll now look at period seven. Same financial year, 19/09/2007 to 24/10/2007. Is that your signature on there?

(TC: 00:36:00)
Peter Holmes: Yeah.

(TC: 00:36:00)
Robert Daley: Yeah. And it's date stamped 24th October 2007. The cash in hand figure, could you read that out for me please?

(TC: 00:36:08)
Peter Holmes: £65,486.04.

(TC: 00:36:11)
Robert Daley: And four pence.

(TC: 00:36:11)
Peter Holmes: Yeah.

(TC: 00:36:12)
Robert Daley: Now, that's went up £15,000, the cash in hand figure, over that period.

(TC: 00:36:19)
Peter Holmes: Yeah, from week to week I'm not surprised. Sometimes you get a lot of giro bank customers coming in. Sometimes (talking over each other 36.24).

(TC: 00:36:23)
Robert Daley: No, this is-, this is the month. This is over a four week period.

(TC: 00:36:25)
Peter Holmes: Of, over a month?

(TC: 00:36:27)
Robert Daley: Yeah.

(TC: 00:36:28)
Peter Holmes: Well that, that could be. I mean we've got one or two customers who pay an awful lot of money in. They only-, they don't come into us regularly because they're, from a security point of view, they use two or three Post Offices. One in particular has paid me in the past 12,000 in one day, she's come in the next day and paid another 13,000 in. And she's from a tanning studio, they've got about twelve of them down in the Teesside area apparently.

POL00066743

(TC: 00:36:53)
Robert Daley: Okay. Let's (talking over each other 36.55).

(TC: 00:36:56)
Peter Holmes: There, there can be quite a, a variation.

(TC: 00:36:57)
Robert Daley: Trading period seven has got-, has shown a shortage of 776.31.

(TC: 00:37:02)
Peter Holmes: Mm hmm.

(TC: 00:37:04)
Robert Daley: Did you report that to the Canners?

(TC: 00:37:06)
Peter Holmes: No.

(TC: 00:37:07)
Robert Daley: No. Why did you not report it?

(TC: 00:37:10)
Peter Holmes: Because basically I was responsible for the office, I looked after things-

(TC: 00:37:13)
Robert Daley: So-

(TC: 00:37:14)
Peter Holmes: In house basically.

(TC: 00:37:16)
Robert Daley: What did you do with that then?

(TC: 00:37:17)
Peter Holmes: Um, I don’t think I put that one in. I carried that one over hoping I' d made a mistake with

stock.

(TC: 00:37:22)
Robert Daley: How did you carry it over?

(TC: 00:37:25)
Peter Holmes: Just left the figures as they were.

(TC: 00:37:27)
Robert Daley: Right. Did you inflate the cash after that?

(TC: 00:37:29)
Peter Holmes: No.

(TC: 00:37:36)
Robert Daley: The trading period eight for the same financial year, 24/10/2007 to 21/11/2007, is this your signature?

(TC: 00:37:43)
Peter Holmes: It is.

(TC: 00:37:48)
Robert Daley: And the cash is back down to £43,170.74. Would that be right? Yeah.

(TC: 00:37:57)
Peter Holmes: Yeah. Presume (inaudible 37.58) yeah.

(TC: 00:37:59)
Robert Daley: You've got an overage here of £1,239.68.

(TC: 00:38:03)
Peter Holmes: Yeah. Again, it wasn' t taken out, it was left in the system, none of the figures were rostered and it just carried on ' til the next week.

(TC: 00:38:09)

Robert Daley: If you're £776 short the previous month and left that as it was without putting it in, why all of a sudden you end up, I mean this is near enough £2000?

(TC: 00:38:20)
Peter Holmes: It is.

(TC: 00:38:20)
Robert Daley: To make it a 1239.68.

(TC: 00:38:22)
Peter Holmes: Yeah. Over four weeks, I don't know.

(TC: 00:38:25)
Robert Daley: You don't know? You can't give an explanation for it? Now, what we haven't done here is we haven't got the cash declarations for those days, but we can get them.

(TC: 00:38:39)
Peter Holmes: Mm hmm.

(TC: 00:38:41)
Robert Daley: Yeah?

(TC: 00:38:41)
Peter Holmes: Yeah.

(TC: 00:38:41)
Robert Daley: And I'll explain to you the reason why you've come here. Err, this is trading period nine, 21/11/2007 to 19/12/2007, is this your signature?

(TC: 00:38:54)
Peter Holmes: Yeah.

(TC: 00:39:01)
Robert Daley: And the cash figure is £58,695 dead.

(TC: 00:39:07)
Peter Holmes: Yeah.

(TC: 00:39:07)
Robert Daley: That's unusual.

(TC: 00:39:08)
Peter Holmes: Mmm.

(TC: 00:39:09)
Robert Daley: And you've got an over figure here of £651.78.

(TC: 00:39:14)
Peter Holmes: Yeah.

(TC: 00:39:15)
Robert Daley: Now, that's dropped from the 2389 the month before.

(TC: 00:39:19)
Peter Holmes: Yeah.

(TC: 00:39:20)
Robert Daley: Your 1239 from the month before, can you tell-, explain that to me?

(TC: 00:39:23)
Peter Holmes: No, I can' t.

(TC: 00:39:44)
Robert Daley: What I've got here is trading period ten, now that's from 19/12/2007 to 23/01/2008, is this your signature?

(TC: 00:39:53)
Peter Holmes: It is, yes.

(TC: 00:39:57)

POL00066743

Robert Daley: And we've got a cash figure here of (TC 00:40:00) £62,913.14.

(TC: 00:40:04)
Peter Holmes: Yeah.

(TC: 00:40:03)
Robert Daley: And all-, you're over £37 over.

(TC: 00:40:06)
Peter Holmes: How much?

(TC: 00:40:07)
Robert Daley: £37 over.

(TC: 00:40:08)
Peter Holmes: Yeah.

(TC: 00:40:12)
Robert Daley: Can you explain?

(TC: 00:40:12)
Peter Holmes: I can't, no.

(TC: 00:40:13)
Robert Daley: Those fluctuations? And here-

(TC: 00:40:16)
Peter Holmes: Well, it's, it's over a four week period now instead of a one week period, as-, but no, I can't.

(TC: 00:40:22)
Robert Daley: And your cash declaration, err, done on that day, 23/01 at 13:15.

(TC: 00:40:28)
Peter Holmes: Yeah, that must have been the one o'clock finish.

POL00066743

(TC: 00:40:29)
Robert Daley: Was 62970.16. Near enough the same.

(TC: 00:40:33)
Peter Holmes: Yeah.

(TC: 00:40:36)
Robert Daley: Err, it's about £43 more that's what actually on that. So, you say that that period, err, you didn't falsified the, the balance?

(TC: 00:40:47)
Peter Holmes: No.

(TC: 00:40:50)
Robert Daley: No. Now, unfortunately we haven't located period eleven and twelve yet. But we're looking at that. So, we're onto period one of, it's now for year 2008/2009, this is from 26/03/2008 to 30/04/2008.

(TC: 00:41:09)
Peter Holmes: Yeah.

(TC: 00:41:11)
Robert Daley: Is that your signature?

(TC: 00:41:13)
Peter Holmes: It is, yeah.

(TC: 00:41:15)
Robert Daley: And we have a cash figure here of £92,033.05. Would that be a true and accurate figure?

(TC: 00:41:23)
Peter Holmes: Err, I presume so at the time. Um, seems high.

(TC: 00:41:28)
Robert Daley: You've got an overage of £7,573.56.

(TC: 00:41:33)
Peter Holmes: Over of seven five, yeah.

(TC: 00:41:35)
Robert Daley: Can you explain that?

(TC: 00:41:35)
Peter Holmes: No. It's obviously if-, yeah, the cash hasn't been put in right.

(TC: 00:41:41)
Robert Daley: Right, if I tell you, so we've got a cash declaration here of £99,606.61, that cash dec was done at 13:12, there's a difference there of £7,000. Why would that be? Why would that cash declaration there be different from that one? That, that's, that overage is a difference between that cash dec and that cash dec.

(TC: 00:42:27)
Peter Holmes: I don't know.

(TC: 00:42:34)
Robert Daley: You can't offer any explanation for that?

(TC: 00:42:37)
Peter Holmes: No.

(TC: 00:42:41)
Robert Daley: Okay, I've got the next cash declaration here. 28th, err, sorry, trading period two, 30/04/2008 to 28/05/2008. There's no signature on this one.

(TC: 00:42:56)
Peter Holmes: It's mine, I, I do them all.

(TC: 00:42:57)
Robert Daley: You do them all?

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(TC: 00:42:59)
Peter Holmes: Yeah.

(TC: 00:43:01)
Robert Daley: Err, the cash figure's very difficult to make out here. It looks as if it's, err, 104 or 124779.70 possible eight pence there. Can you see that?

(TC: 00:43:24)
Peter Holmes: (inaudible 43.24).

(TC: 00:43:27)
Robert Daley: (inaudible 43.28) you actually see that for yourself, so cash in hand (ph 43.31) brought forward.

(TC: 00:43:31)
Peter Holmes: 104?

(TC: 00:43:33)
Robert Daley: Yeah.

(TC: 00:43:33)
Peter Holmes: 124. 104.

(TC: 00:43:36)
Robert Daley: 104, 124.

(TC: 00:43:36)
Peter Holmes: Yeah.

(TC: 00:43:40)
Robert Daley: Err, £321, now that's a shortage I've worked out by looking the 321's there, so it's minus there anyway, 321.48 short.

(TC: 00:43:47)

Peter Holmes: Right. Yeah..

(TC: 00:43:48)
Robert Daley: Did you tell the Canners about that?

(TC: 00:43:51)
Peter Holmes: No.

(TC: 00:43:55)
Robert Daley: Now, the cash declaration done on this one, you can see on 28/05 is 85,458.24, that was the last cash dec compared to 100 and 424. Now, if it's 104 there's, there's total 20,000 there of a difference, is was around about that period, that's within the last six, nine months that you've inflated this cash declaration, or this, err, the cash on this branch trading statement. (silence 44.34-44.57) Just for the benefit of the tape, Mr Holmes is looking at the manual cash declaration.

(TC: 00:45:08)
Peter Holmes: Err, unless we' ve found something else in the safe in the way of cash and it hasn' t been added onto that.

(TC: 00:45:14)
Robert Daley: Well, what we'll do is I'll come back to that one, okay? The breakup noise was saying that the tape's about to, to stop. You want to read that out for me please? That tape number.

(TC: 00:45:23)
Peter Holmes: Err, 071706.

(TC: 00:45:27)
Robert Daley: Can you just sign above your name please? Okay, we'll take a break during this interview to change tapes. Err, the time is 14:56 hours. (Silence 45.44-46.41).