

Record of Tape Recorded Interview



Person Interviewed Oyeteju Adedayo (OA)

Place of Interview Rainham Road SPOB

Date of Interview 5 September 2005

Time commenced 15.06

Duration of interview 45 Minutes

Interviewing Officer(s) Natasha Bernard (NB)

Other persons present

Exhibit No:
Number of pages: 10

Signature of interviewing
officer producing exhibit

Time concluded 15.51

Tape reference no 066312

Adrian Morris (AM)

Tape counter times	Person speaking	Text
02.59	AM	Continuation of interview. AM makes general introductions. RE CAUTIONED. AM confirms that no questions were asked during the break in relation to the investigation.
	OA	At the end of the last tape we were talking about we spoke about the ten thousand pounds how Joan and you counted it up and you took the money out to these family and friends that were out in the car. And we were talking about the twenty thousand pounds that you handed over in June/July. Now we got as far as saying I believe that you spoken to Joan about it she wasn't happy
03.58	AM	She wasn't because obviously she knows that it's the post office money and she knows I have never done it never
	OA	You have because you done it a month before you took ten thousand pounds
	AM	I know but it wasn't with criminal intention
	OA	Okay, so what happened what I'm trying to find out here again was it the same as before who counted that twenty thousand pounds out
	AM	Between the two of us
05.30	AM	Between the two of you OA explains that when she approached Joan with the same problem Joan was about to send money away. OA explains that the friends/ family were waiting in the car outside

Record of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

Tape counter times	Person speaking	Text
05.49	AM	See this is what I find hard to believe that this is friends or family. If you're actually paying them back I find it hard to believe that this is the case.
	OA	Because as far as they are concerned I sold Slough
	AM	This was six years ago
	OA	I didn't sell Slough six years ago. I sold Slough about 2003
06.03	AM	Okay 2003 that's two years ago then
		She explains that when she had the High Court case with the previous owner the friends/family eased off from her. She explains that arrangements were made to hand over the money during meetings with the family.
		She explains that she did not want to take a short-term loan because they are very expensive. She states that she wanted to get a loan that was tied to the property.
09.19	AM	So you stole from the post office to cover that interim period
	OA	Well I stole yes, but I did not steal with the intention of criminal mind it it was a case of trying to save this situation that was just beyond me I would not lie I would not sit here willingly if I was going to lie about it, I wouldn't
09.52	NB	Okay well you said you've stolen the money from the post office you said you didn't do it with any criminal
	OA	It wasn't a case of steal and not wanting to put it back because I know I or lie about it because as soon as he came in and I came in I told him he has not even started doing I said I need to own up to something I didn't let him waste all his time because that wasn't the intention, if it was that I would say I am coming back in one minute I need to go probably get as far away when it's sorted out as start looking for me but why do I want to that I've got a property here I don't need to I don't want to do that do
10.39	NB	Well you had to tell him really didn't you, you had to, because he was gonna find out wasn't he
	OA	Oh absolutely, but then I could have gone away from here you would be looking which could have been worst
		NB states that OA is aware of the proper channels to go through to get a mortgage
12.16	NB	And what I don't understand is why did you change when it came here?
		I mean you're not a stupid woman
	OA	I am a stupid woman right now I am a little bit stupid because this incident I wish

Record of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

Tape counter times	Person speaking	Text
12.34	NB	I'd spoken to the retail manager
	OA	So why didn't you speak to the retail managers why didn't you
	NB	I just got scared
	OA	You got scared
	NB	I got scared
	OA	Why
	NB	Because you just said it even though my intention is not to steal it it's looked upon as stolen
12.55	OA	Well you did steal it, because who does the money belong to
	NB	Oh I
	OA	Well tell me who does the money belong to
	NB	Post Office I
	OA	It belongs to the post office
	NB	I know
13.05	OA	Right. So why didn't you tell the retail line. What were you scared of
	NB	The person. I don't know
	OA	Were you scared you're gonna lose your job
	NB	Hmm (distressed)
13.20	OA	For the benefit of the tape
	NB	Yes
	OA	Mrs Adedayo has become a bit distressed, are you ok to continue
	NB	I'm ok
	OA	Are you sure
	NB	I'm ok, I'm ok, I'm ok to continue, I'm ok
	OA	So you didn't tell the retail line because you didn't want to lose your job
13.43	NB	I didn't want to lose my job and I thought it was something that would come through because I don't owe anybody else
	OA	Right
	NB	OA states that she is prepared to give authority for her bank accounts to be examined
14.36	OA	When you took this money, when you stole this money from the post office did you know that it was dishonest, did you know that what you were doing was dishonest
	NB	My heart was in my mouth I wasn't happy I wanted to go through the proper

Record of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

Tape counter times	Person speaking	Text
15.40	NB OA NB OA NB	channels which was to actually secure a loan on my property. If I didn't have any equity I can say yes you siphoned the money to do something but I wanted to go through the proper channels secure the property money on them everybody go there separate ways and I carry on with my business which was my initial plan. So how have you benefited by using the post office funds I haven't benefited You haven't Well the only thing is I've benefited by getting rid of them But how much would it have cost you if you had to get a loan, it would have cost you wouldn't it. You said yourself it was very expensive Very expensive
16.02	NB OA	Exactly. So you have benefited haven't you Ok I get what you're saying. I benefited because I could get rid of them.
18.34	NB	OA explains that she wanted the re finance to come from one source So in the mean time you just used the post office as that umbrella OA states that as soon as she gets the re mortgage she will repay the post office OA becomes distressed NB refers to cash account 10 week ending the 1 June 2005. OA confirms that she signed the cash account.
20.14	NB OA NB OA NB OA NB OA NB OA NB OA	Now obviously fifty thousand pounds has been stolen from the accounts and this is a document, are you aware of section 12 of the Subpostmasters contract that says that the use of post office funds is strictly forbidden I know Right so you are aware of that Oh I know Now on the cash account on page 2 we've got a cash figure here, this is for the 1 June £56308.94. Is that the true figure? Yes That is the true figure That's not when the fifty was out So when did the ten thousand come out, you said in June or July That's what I'm saying, what I'm saying is Right That amount of money some has been returned so it's not that time I would have

Record of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

Tape counter times	Person speaking	Text
		got the fifty because we wouldn't have had any money
	NB	Yes I know that I understand that but ten thousand pounds wasn't there
	OA	Yes
	NB	Right
	OA	Out of that
	NB	So you would have taken ten thousand pounds out of a particular week in the month but I want to identify now what week that was. Now you said June
	OA	I would say that is part of it
	NB	So this is week ending the 1 June 2005
	OA	I would say that is part of it
	NB	What do you mean that is part of it
	OA	The ten thousand would have added, I didn't take it, I put it back in
21.35	NB	I understand that. So you've inflated your cash is that what you're telling me
	OA	Yes
	NB	If for example you physically had twenty thousand pounds of twenty-pound notes to accommodate for the ten thousand that you taken out you'd have to increase the figure, is that what you were doing?
21.57	OA	Yes
	NB	Okay. Now what I am trying to establish then is this figure here 56308.94 was that the correct figure
	OA	That was the correct figure. Every single thing on the account
	NB	Was there fifty six thousand pounds in the post office
	OA	Physically
	NB	Physically
22.19	OA	No. Because at that time ten was out
	NB	No, right
	OA	Fifty-six would have been the figure for that week.
		OA confirms that only £46k would have been on hand
23.00	NB	So that figure there £56308.94 is actually a false figure isn't it, it's not true is it
	OA	Yes, because I took
	NB	And the signing of the cash account are you aware
	OA	I know
23.11	NB	Right so you know that the signing of the cash account means is a true and accurate reflection of what's in the accounts. Okay so that is a false figure isn't

Record of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

Tape counter times	Person speaking	Text
23.18	OA	it?
	NB	Yes
	NB	And you signed that cash account. Do you accept that
	OA	Yes
	NB	NB refers to cash account 15 week ending 6 July 2005.
	OA	Here we have a figure of £59907.93 is that a false figure?
	NB	It is because of the ten thousand
	OA	It is. So is it still ten thousand missing at this point
	NB	Yes
	OA	So when does the twenty thousand go missing at what point
24.06	NB	I would say roughly in July August
	OA	So you accept that this is a false figure
	NB	Yes
	OA	And you accept that you've signed the cash account as well
	NB	I know
	OA	Right ok. Lets go then to week number 20 and that's week ending 10 August 2005. Again we have a cash figure of £67276.36. Now this was week ending 10 August 2005
	NB	I think at that time I've come back for the twenty
	OA	You've done what
	NB	I think I've, he's had that money and I think I've come back to ask her for the twenty thousand to give them
	OA	Right so it's about thirty thousand pounds short now is it
25.14	NB	Yes
	OA	So is that figure a false figure then
	NB	It is
	OA	It is. And you accept that you signed that cash account
	NB	I did yes
	OA	And so when did the last. So July /August that was August, at what point did the last twenty thousand go.
	NB	I think it was in July, no sorry it was in August.
	OA	August when. This is the 10 August
	NB	NB tries to establish how long the accounts have been short by £50k
	OA	When did they last come and visit you
26.38	AM	

Record of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

Tape counter times	Person speaking	Text
27.50	OA	August
	AM	When in August
	OA	Second or third the week
	AM	Second or third week of August
		NB refers to week 22 week ending the 24 August 2005.
	NB	You've got a cash figure here of sixty two thousand
	OA	The money was twenty thousand was showing there
	NB	What I'm trying to get at is when the fifty thousand
	OA	The fifty thousand was sitting there
	NB	What do you mean it was sitting there
	OA	By that time I've taken the
	NB	By that time you've taken fifty thousand
	OA	For them, yes, over a period of time
	AM	So the cash in the office would've been twelve thousand pounds then
	OA	I think it would have
	NB	Right
	OA	Think so
	AM	Well is it or not. That's showing £62700.00
28.30	OA	What I'm not sure is if that is showing also money we booked out.
		NB confirms from the cash account that £20k was in a pouch awaiting collection and is separate from the cash on hand figure on the cash account. OA confirms that since the 24 August 2005 the accounts have been short by £50k. OA agrees that the cash figure is a false figure and confirms that she signed the cash account.
30.22		AM refers to cash declaration 23 August 2005 and OA confirms that Joan would have prepared the cash declaration and that Joan would have inflated the cash knowing that OA owes the cash to the post office. OA states that Joan was worried about the cash not being in the accounts but was just trying to save her neck by inflating the cash.
33.30		NB refers to manuscript cash declarations for 23 August 2005. OA confirms her own writing and Joan's writing. NB confirms 23 August 2005 was a Tuesday
	NB	Can you tell me underneath the twenty's I've got £52620.00, then in brackets there's a T, what does that mean?
	OA	The T is that I've taken

Record of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

Tape counter times	Person speaking	Text
34.01	OA	Taken
	NB	And underneath the ten
	OA	I've spread them because obviously if I put thirty thousand there are you with me if I put thirty thousand there it's gonna show
	NB	So £52620.00
	OA	Was wrong
	NB	That T means that what you've taken is that right, have I understood what you mean
	OA	No that is what I've taken including what is in the safe
	NB	I'm not with you, no
	OA	You know when we count it, when we count what is in the safe
	NB	Yes
	OA	What is sitting there I've taken is included
	NB	So why have you put T there then
	AM	What do the other figures mean then
	OA	Some is if we've sent money out but they haven't collected but they're in the pouch, whatever denomination. Do you understand what I'm saying? Whatever denomination we've got to go out because they haven't collected it we still have to account for it
35.03	AM	Ok
	OA	Do you understand? Basically that is to show that what we have underneath, what is in the safe and what I have taken
	NB	Ok so how do you know what you've taken, where is it on this piece of paper
	OA	It's on there it included it
35.14	NB	What do you mean, included it with what
	OA	Includes means taken, taken is referred to me
	NB	So you took £52620.00
	OA	I did not take fifty-two. Taken means in bracket that figure includes my money, are you with me, that figure includes my money
	NB	Ok lets move on what's this letter here underneath the tens, there's £560.00 what does that say
	OA	That is what is in the safe the four thousand is what is in the pouch
	NB	No the £560
	OA	The £560 was what is under the where we put the money

Record of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

Tape counter times	Person speaking	Text
36.00	NB	What does this letter mean
	OA	What Joan has already taken out of the till
	NB	Underneath the fives there's an L
	OA	What is in the till, not money taken by anybody but what is in the till OA explains that not all the money is brought out. AM asks what the relevance of the different letters are OA explains that there is a pocket in the tray where money is put. OA explains that the letters do not really stand for anything.
39.46	NB	So how did you keep a note of how much money you were giving to these people, did you keep a note of it or you just knew
	OA	How do you mean
	NB	Well did you have to write it down
	OA	I know that I owe them fifty. OA confirms that she is unwilling to give the names of these people.
41.18	NB	Well to be fair you actually had enough didn't you if you'd have gone through the proper channels
	OA	Believe me I know that was what I was trying to do, that was what I thought I would be able to do on time. OA confirms that Joan would be able to corroborate that she was taking money from the post office OA confirms that she would be able to provide the paperwork to back up her claims.
	NB	Is there anything that you'd like to add or clarify before the end of the interview
44.31	OA	I am sorry. I am very sorry about this. This is what I was trying to avoid. Believe them I was trying to avoid them embarrassing me and I was trying I just thought maybe the post office would understand. I know I took the money but I thought they will understand, give me time. I take my job serious I take every thing that is written in the contract very serious I would not do anything like this if I was not sandwiched between a pillar and a post. And it was just a case of avoiding the embarrassment truly, truly and I'm sorry because it's not something I've done deliberate I don't even need, if it's something for me I don't even need it you understand but because I had to give it to them hence this all came to a head and I thought ok the post office will come and I will explain in fact I was almost giving somebody a call the person that actually interviewed me did everything I

Record of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

Tape counter times	Person speaking	Text
	NB OA NB AM	called to tell her because I couldn't sleep in my own bed either. If the re mortgage has come through believe me what do I need the money for I don't lead an extravagant life I don't care about holidays for almost eight years I haven't been on one This tapes going to finish now Ok So if that's everything. NB hands OA form CS019 Tape seal 066312 signed The time is now 15.51 I'm now suspending the interview. +