File name: Carl PAGE - 6299 Carl Page Tape 2 of 5 Tape No.058038.mp3

Audio quality: Great

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: 00:00:07)
Moderator: Okay, I'm resuming the interview. The time is now 16:31 hours. Um, we remain in the same, um, room which is, err, the offices of Hand Morgan and Owen, um, at 17 Martin Street in Stafford. Err, my name is Manish Patel and my colleague-,

(TC: 00:00:22)
Moderator: Colin Price.

(TC: 00:00:23)
Moderator: Um, can I just go round the table and get everyone to introduce themselves, Carl?

(TC: 00:00:27)
M: Carl Adrian Page.

(TC: 00:00:28)
Moderator: And?

(TC: 00:00:29)
M: Patrick Farrington.

(TC: 00:00:30)
Moderator: Okay. Um, Carl, I'm going to remind you that you remain under caution, um, that is 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.

(TC: 00:00:43)

M: Okay.

(TC: 00:00:44)
Moderator: Do you understand that?

(TC: 00:00:44)
M: Yes.

(TC: 00:00:46)
Moderator: Are you happy with the full explanation I gave you before?

(TC: 00:00:47)
M: Yes. No problem.

(TC: 00:00:48)
Moderator: Okay. Um, just a couple of things. Um, again, you have the same legal rights as before, um, and I'll, err, use the form again here, CS001 side B. Um, I remind you that this is a voluntary interview and that you are not under arrest. Um, again, you do not have to remain at this interview, um, and, um, if you do remain you have the right to legal representation but obviously-,

(TC: 00:01:10)
M: Yeah, I' ve signed and agreed to that, yeah.

(TC: 00:01:12)
Moderator: Um and you can read the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. Um, can I-, this is a second part, it's a continuation, if we put, um, if we just put the time on there, which is now 16:32 and the date.

(TC: 00:01:24)
M: 23rd, isn' t it?

(TC: 00:01:25)
Moderator: Yeah. Um, those parts there, um, just says, 'I confirm that I-,'

(TC: 00:01:31)
M: Yeah, signed it and dated it, yeah?

(TC: 00:01:31)
Moderator: Please, yeah and again here it says, 'I wish to speak to a solicitor as soon as practical.' If you can sign there for me.

(TC: 00:01:47)
M: And leave that blank?

(TC: 00:01:48)
Moderator: Yeah, leave that blank and it says, um, 'If you don't want to speak to a solicitor, you know you can change your mind at any point (talking over each other 01.54).'

(TC: 00:01:54)
M: Put yes there, okay?

(TC: 00:01:55)
Moderator: Please. Okay? Thank you for that and just one last point, err, the additional right to have a Post Office friend present. Would you like anyone present?

(TC: 00:02:03)
M: No.

(TC: 00:02:04)
Moderator: Are you sure?

(TC: 00:02:05)
M: (inaudible 02.05) thank you.

(TC: 00:02:06)
Moderator: Okay. If that, um, you should change your mind about that, please let us know.

(TC: 00:02:10)
M: I will do, yeah.

(TC: 00:02:11)

Moderator: Right, um, we were just moving on to, um, these are-, these are the, um, this is item number, err, or exhibit number NJW7.

(TC: 00:02:22)
M: Mmhmm.

(TC: 00:02:24)
Moderator: Um, these were a number of, um, first rate faxes which were recovered from the office on the night of the 13th.

(TC: 00:02:29)
M: Okay. Yeah. Okay.

(TC: 00:02:31)
Moderator: Err, do you recognise them as-,

(TC: 00:02:33)
M: Yes.

(TC: 00:02:33)
Moderator: Right, okay. The top one on here is in relation to 13th January 2003.

(TC: 00:02:38)
M: Okay.

(TC: 00:02:39)
Moderator: Timed at 08:30 hours.

(TC: 00:02:40)
M: Okay.

(TC: 00:02:41)
Moderator: Okay? Um and if we just quickly look down at the euro values, err, for notes, euros on that day for under um, £5,000, would have been 1.4583, yeah?

(TC: 00:02:55)
M: Mmhmm.

(TC: 00:02:55)
Moderator: Err, I'm not-, there is a Thomas Cook figure there, I'm not too interested in that.

(TC: 00:02:58)
M: Thomas Cook?

(TC: 00:02:59)
Moderator: Sorry, um, err, travellers cheques. Um and then if we look along at the euros for buybacks, um, the rates for buying them back was 1.6087, okay?

(TC: 00:03:10)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:03:10)
Moderator: Okay. Right. Now, um, in relation to-, in relation to this exhibit and, as I say, I'll-, I'm gonna go through some of the images on here.

(TC: 00:03:28)
M: Mmhmm.

(TC: 00:03:28)
Moderator: Not all of them, but some of the entries, okay? Um, and what I will do, I'll show you-, what I've done, what I've done, those till rolls, you obviously know what those till rolls look like and I've got one here as an example.

(TC: 00:03:37)
M: Exactly (ph 03.37).

(TC: 00:03:38)
Moderator: They're not very friendly to work with, um, so therefore I've gone through them, copied the-,

(TC: 00:03:42)

M: Okay.

(TC: 00:03:42)
Moderator: Entry and we'll be discussing those copies.

(TC: 00:03:44)
M: Okay.

(TC: 00:03:44)
Moderator: Okay? Now, let's just have a quick look at, um, the first, um, yeah, let's have a look at the 8th of May, okay? 8th of May, on this schedule, if we can find it, um, there isn't an 8th of May, okay?

(TC: 00:04:06)
M: Mmhmm.

(TC: 00:04:06)
Moderator: As a buyback, right? There is a 7th and there is a 9th.

(TC: 00:04:10)
M: Mmhmm.

(TC: 00:04:10)
Moderator: Yeah? Um and if we go over to the second page-,

(TC: 00:04:14)
M: There's a 9th.

(TC: 00:04:14)
Moderator: There's a 9th. So there's two transactions which occurred on the 9th.

(TC: 00:04:17)
M: Mmhmm.

(TC: 00:04:18)

Moderator: And one occurred on the 7th.

(TC: 00:04:19)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:04:19)
Moderator: Okay. This is a portion of the till roll, right? Um, that's the portion of the till roll that we found, okay?

(TC: 00:04:32)
M: Mmhmm.

(TC: 00:04:33)
Moderator: Um, and as you can see, it's got 15:39 hours.

(TC: 00:04:37)
M: Can I just ask you, you said buyback, that' s sell note.

(TC: 00:04:39)
Moderator: I know, yeah. Sorry, when did I say buyback?

(TC: 00:04:42)
M: You just said buyback.

(TC: 00:04:43)
Moderator: Did I? Okay, sorry, I meant sell note. Sell note. This whole (talking over each other 04.47)-,

(TC: 00:04:47)
M: Okay, yeah, okay.

(TC: 00:04:48)
Moderator: Selling notes. Okay. Apologies for that. Um, 15:39 hours, 8th May 2002, we've got sell note 36,000 euros.

(TC: 00:04:58)
M: Mmhmm.

(TC: 00:04:59)
Moderator: At 1.65.

(TC: 00:05:00)
M: Mmhmm.

(TC: 00:05:01)
Moderator: Okay? And the sterling value for that is £21,301.79.

(TC: 00:05:06)
M: Okay.

(TC: 00:05:07)
Moderator: Okay? Um, now, do you know why that transaction doesn't appear on this schedule?

(TC: 00:05:15)
M: No.

(TC: 00:05:16)
Moderator: No? Okay. It doesn't, because having performed that-, well, would I be right in saying that that was a transaction done for GRO

(TC: 00:05:29)
M: It may have been, yes.

(TC: 00:05:30)
Moderator: Right. I mean, he's the only one who buys the large values we're talking about.

(TC: 00:05:32)
M: Yeah. Yeah.

(TC: 00:05:34)

Moderator: Is there anyone else? Any firms? Anyone else?

(TC: 00:05:36)
M: No.

(TC: 00:05:37)
Moderator: That you're aware of. Okay. So, it's probably GRO who purchased that?

(TC: 00:05:41)
M: He may have done, yes.

(TC: 00:05:42)
Moderator: Okay.

(TC: 00:05:44)
M: I can't think (inaudible 05.45).

(TC: 00:05:46)
Moderator: Right. Would he have come in on site to purchase those?

(TC: 00:05:49)
M: I would have thought so, yes.

(TC: 00:05:51)
Moderator: Has there ever been an occasion where the euros have been taken to him?

(TC: 00:05:55)
M: No.

(TC: 00:05:56)
Moderator: No? But other people, on occasions, have come in and collected them for him, like his daughter did, I think and his brother-in-law?

(TC: 00:06:01)
M: His daughter (inaudible 06.03) and he had a gentleman come in.

(TC: 00:06:04)
Moderator: Right, but they always come in to purchase them?

(TC: 00:06:07)
M: Yes.

(TC: 00:06:08)
Moderator: Right. They've never been taken off site by anyone, either you, Margaret, or anyone else?

(TC: 00:06:11)
M: No.

(TC: 00:06:11)
Moderator: No?

(TC: 00:06:11)
M: I' ve done that in the past for maybe a few people other than GRO When we' ve-, when we' ve done it in the past, it might be an old lady who can' t get down and (inaudible 06.19).

(TC: 00:06:18)
Moderator: Right. But you're absolutely sure in your mind that you've never taken euros off the premises to hand to GRO

(TC: 00:06:24)
M: Definitely not.

(TC: 00:06:25)
Moderator: No? Okay. The reason it's not on that schedule is because, from the early hours of 9th of May-,

(TC: 00:06:36)
M: Mmhmm.

(TC: 00:06:37)
Moderator: Err, 06:11 hours on 9th May, we have here a reversal, right?

(TC: 00:06:42)
M: Mmhmm. Yeah.

(TC: 00:06:44)
Moderator: Explain to us what, what, what the reversal is, please?

(TC: 00:06:46)
M: We' re just reversing the transaction, that' s all.

(TC: 00:06:48)
Moderator: Right. What, what, what would the reasons be for reversing it?

(TC: 00:06:51)
M: Maybe I put it in twice, or I' m showing a, a loss, or a gain, and, as I said, I might have put it in twice, by accident.

(TC: 00:06:58)
Moderator: Right.

(TC: 00:06:59)
M: Or he might have phoned me up and say, ' How much on 36 euros is the best rate and (inaudible 07.07) probably 1 point whatever it was.

(TC: 00:07:08)
Moderator: Right.

(TC: 00:07:07)
M: ' Can you give him that?' And come the next morning to balance it off. Is the 9th of May a Wednesday or Thursday morning?

(TC: 00:07:14)
Moderator: I think you'll find it's a Thursday.

(TC: 00:07:15)
M: When I come in to balance the till off in the Thursday morning, I just reverse the cheque.

(TC: 00:07:18)
Moderator: Is it a Thursday?

(TC: 00:07:19)
Moderator: Thursday, yes.

(TC: 00:07:19)
Moderator: Yeah.

(TC: 00:07:19)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:07:21)
Moderator: So, okay. He bought-, he bought 36,000-,

(TC: 00:07:23)
M: He might have-, I don' t know. I might have done it. What time was the transaction?

(TC: 00:07:27)
Moderator: Five-, 15:39.

(TC: 00:07:30)
M: He wouldn' t have had it-,he wouldn' t-, it' s very rare that he comes in at that time, it would be first thing in the morning, so.

(TC: 00:07:34)
Moderator: So, he, he didn't perform that transaction?

(TC: 00:07:36)
M: No. Oh, mind you, he might have phoned me up and asked me a question, ' How much are €36, how much would it cost?'

(TC: 00:07:42)
Moderator: But this is a transaction which is put through.

(TC: 00:07:45)
M: Yeah, but I reversed it.

(TC: 00:07:45)
Moderator: It's been confirmed, yeah, the following day.

(TC: 00:07:47)
M: Yeah, but that's a Wednesday.

(TC: 00:07:49)
Moderator: Yeah.

(TC: 00:07:49)
M: That's a Thursday morning.

(TC: 00:07:50)
Moderator: Yeah.

(TC: 00:07:50)
M: And I might have forgot to, um, reverse it. 'Cause you have to put it in the machine-,

(TC: 00:07:53)
Moderator: So he, he sometimes rings up and asks you-,

(TC: 00:07:57)
M: Yeah, maybe once or twice, that's about it. It's not a common occurrence, no.

(TC: 00:08:02)
Moderator: No, but, err, sorry, I'm losing, losing the plot here. He, he must have rung up the office on the 8th of May-,

(TC: 00:08:09)

M: He may have done, yes.

(TC: 00:08:09)
Moderator: And said, 'I want to buy 36,000 euros.

(TC: 00:08:12)
M: Yeah, 'How much will that cost me, Carl?'

(TC: 00:08:14)
Moderator: So someone's put it in, tapped it into the machine?

(TC: 00:08:16)
M: Yeah, I mean, there's no other way you can do it, is there?

(TC: 00:08:19)
Moderator: But they've gone ahead with it. You see, that's, that's a transaction which has gone through.

(TC: 00:08:25)
M: Right.

(TC: 00:08:25)
Moderator: Isn't it?

(TC: 00:08:26)
M: Yeah. I mean, you can just cancel-, as I said, you can just reverse it. There's no difference between cancelling (talking over each other 08.30).

(TC: 00:08:30)
Moderator: So, he wasn't, he wasn't-, he can't-, he wasn't in the Post Office (ph 08.33) that day?

(TC: 00:08:33)
M: He might not have been, he might have been.

(TC: 00:08:34)

Moderator: Okay.

(TC: 00:08:35)
M: It' s very rare that he comes in at that time, that' s all I can say.

(TC: 00:08:37)
Moderator: Right. Okay.

(TC: 00:08:38)
Moderator: If that was a Wednesday the transaction was done-,

(TC: 00:08:43)
M: I' d have-, I' d have balanced the till on the Thursday morning, before we opened up.

(TC: 00:08:46)
Moderator: Is that what you do?

(TC: 00:08:47)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:08:47)
Moderator: So, that (inaudible 08.49) done before you actually (talking over each other 08.50)?

(TC: 00:08:49)
M: That' s right, yeah. See, it really would have made no difference to the till.

(TC: 00:08:52)
Moderator: Yeah, because you can' t do reversals in different weeks, can you?

(TC: 00:08:55)
M: I haven' t rolled over have I?

(TC: 00:08:56)
Moderator: That's what I' m saying.

(TC: 00:08:57)
M: I haven' t-, I haven' t rolled over the money changer. Do you know what I mean by that?

(TC: 00:09:00)
Moderator: Yeah.

(TC: 00:09:02)
Moderator: Okay. Let's move on-,

(TC: 00:09:04)
M: Has, has that transaction been duplicated earlier on in the week?

(TC: 00:09:09)
Moderator: Duplicated on another week?

(TC: 00:09:11)
M: No, early on in the week?

(TC: 00:09:12)
Moderator: Early on in the week? No.

(TC: 00:09:13)
M: Okay.

(TC: 00:09:14)
Moderator: No. Let's move on to later in the day on the 9th, okay? So, that was-, that was a reversal that you did, um and that, that would have been you, wouldn't it, at 6:11? I mean, I-,

(TC: 00:09:23)
M: It would be 7:11, because it' s six-,

(TC: 00:09:25)
Moderator: Because of the times, yeah. Well, no actually it wouldn't in May, because, err, the clocks have already gone forward again, haven't they, so that is the proper time.

(TC: 00:09:31)
M: Okay.

(TC: 00:09:32)
Moderator: Um, so at 6:11, Margaret wouldn't have been there, would she?

(TC: 00:09:35)
M: No, it would have been me.

(TC: 00:09:36)
Moderator: Right, so you did the reversal we can fairly-,

(TC: 00:09:38)
M: 'Cause I'm the one who does you know, the majority of the balancing, being the Postmaster, yeah.

(TC: 00:09:42)
Moderator: Okay and you think the reversal probably would have been because?

(TC: 00:09:49)
M: There'd be-, there'd be a genuine reason for it is that, you know, I might not have cancelled it from the previous day, or whatever.

(TC: 00:09:56)
Moderator: Right, okay. Let's move along to-, and as I say, that was 06:11, let's move along to 09:07 on the same day, then.

(TC: 00:10:04)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:10:05)
Moderator: Okay. 09:07.

(TC: 00:10:07)
M: Mmhmm.

(TC: 00:10:08)
Moderator: Right? 2nd May.

(TC: 00:10:09)
M: Is that for the same amount?

(TC: 00:10:10)
Moderator: It is. We have, we have sell note 36,000 at 1.69.

(TC: 00:10:16)
M: Mmm.

(TC: 00:10:16)
Moderator: The amount being £21,301.78. Exactly the same as what we had earlier.

(TC: 00:10:19)
M: Yeah. As I said, he might have-, he might have phoned up and said, ' I' m coming tomorrow, how much would-,' and that' s it.

(TC: 00:10:25)
Moderator: Right.

(TC: 00:10:26)
M: That' s the only thing I can think of.

(TC: 00:10:27)
Moderator: Okay. Right. So, he made a telephone enquiry on 8th, on Wednesday the 8th, albeit it on the till rolls it appears that he did a transaction.

(TC: 00:10:36)
M: He might have asked one of the ladies.

(TC: 00:10:38)
Moderator: Right.

(TC: 00:10:39)
M: Or whatever. I mean, I don' t know.

(TC: 00:10:41)
Moderator: Okay, but-, right, so if one of the-, if one of the ladies had taken a telephone, um-, yeah, if one of the ladies had taken a telephone call from him on the 8th of-, on the 8th of May and they put it into the forward money changer to give him, you know, what, what he'd get, right and they've, they've clearly gone through with the transaction, right?

(TC: 00:11:04)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:11:05)
Moderator: How would you know, at 06:11 in the morning, that you need to reverse that?

(TC: 00:11:09)
M: Because she might have-, I might have gone the, the, um, the machine, the computer, right? I start balancing and realise there' s a difference of 21,000 and (inaudible 11.20) difference of £21,000 and you realise, you go through the till, that the one earlier had been put through and it may not have been put, you know, put through properly.

(TC: 00:11:30)
Moderator: Did you speak to, to-,

(TC: 00:11:32)
M: Well, I don' t know, do I? It' s over a year ago, isn' t it?

(TC: 00:11:34)
Moderator: Right, because, well, you'd have to speak to her, wouldn't you, really, because how'd you know that someone didn't lose the cheque for that? If one of the girls did the transaction on the 8th of, err-,

(TC: 00:11:44)
M: Well, it might have been me, mighten it? That' s why I never asked the question. It may have been me, mighten it?

(TC: 00:11:48)

Moderator: Oh, right, so, that-,

(TC: 00:11:49)
M: I don't know, do I? You're asking me what I did a year ago.

(TC: 00:11:51)
Moderator: Okay. Sure. I appreciate that it's a long time ago, but let's, let's, let's have a look at this. If, on the 8th of May at 15:39 you conducted that transaction-,

(TC: 00:11:59)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:12:00)
Moderator: By telephone, right?

(TC: 00:12:02)
M: No, he asked me (inaudible 12.03) phone up, 'How much is €36,000 gonna cost me?'

(TC: 00:12:06)
Moderator: Yeah, that's what I mean.

(TC: 00:12:06)
M: Yeah, okay.

(TC: 00:12:07)
Moderator: He rang you on the Thursday, sorry, on Wednesday the 8th.

(TC: 00:12:09)
M: Mmhmm.

(TC: 00:12:10)
Moderator: Said, 'How much, Carl, €36,000?' You put it in to-, tapped it into the machine, right?

(TC: 00:12:13)
M: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

(TC: 00:12:14)
Moderator: You've gone through with the process.

(TC: 00:12:15)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:12:16)
Moderator: Then he says, 'Well, I don't know, I'll come in tomorrow,' or whatever. I don't know.

(TC: 00:12:19)
M: Yeah, he usually comes in the morning, yeah.

(TC: 00:12:20)
Moderator: Okay. Why didn't you reverse it then, straight after that?

(TC: 00:12:25)
M: I may have been answering the phone. I might have been serving. I might have been balancing some other till. I mean, it's a busy office, isn't it?

(TC: 00:12:31)
Moderator: Right, yeah, but I mean, how long does it take to do a reversal at, err, straight after that? I mean, presumably you would have just put the telephone down because he didn't wanna go head with the transaction, so-,

(TC: 00:12:41)
M: What do you mean (inaudible 12.42) with the transaction? He might have said, 'I'll you tomorrow, Carl.'

(TC: 00:12:44)
Moderator: Sorry?

(TC: 00:12:45)
M: He might have-, he might have turned round and said, 'I'll see you tomorrow.'

(TC: 00:12:48)
Moderator: Right, but if, if he-, if he said, 'I'll see you tomorrow, to do that transaction,' wouldn't you still reverse that out, because he hasn't bought it on the 8th, has he?

(TC: 00:12:57)
M: Yeah, but I reversed it out before he came in in the morning, before I balanced the till.

(TC: 00:13:00)
Moderator: Right.

(TC: 00:13:01)
M: So, there's no difference between that timing, as long as you balance-, I mean, let's put it this way, what happens if, um, I put, um, four savings stamps in on the till and somebody's only-, I've only sold two, and I think, 'I've got to reverse that, I've got to reverse that,' and before you balance the end of the week, or that night, or whatever, you reverse the two stamps.

(TC: 00:13:18)
Moderator: But, but that's why I'm asking. Why didn't you reverse it straight after?

(TC: 00:13:21)
M: As I just said to you, you might have forgot, or whatever. I might have forgot all about it, and you come to the next morning, you balance off and you find out you're 21,000 short. The amount of times you've gone through your tills, or whatever, you think to yourself, 'I reversed a cheque from there,' or whatever, like that, it's-, you know that as well as I do.

(TC: 00:13:37)
Moderator: Okay.

(TC: 00:13:38)
M: It's standard practice in the Post Office.

(TC: 00:13:39)
Moderator: Yeah, that's fine. Let's move on to a little bit further along, err, on the 9th of May, then. Now at, um, now at 10:17 hours on the 9th of May, okay?

(TC: 00:13:48)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:13:49)
Moderator: Um, here we have selling 80,000, err, euros.

(TC: 00:13:53)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:13:54)
Moderator: Um, at 1.69.

(TC: 00:13:56)
M: Mmhmm.

(TC: 00:13:57)
Moderator: And, err, he pays £47,337.28.

(TC: 00:14:00)
M: Mmhmm.

(TC: 00:14:01)
Moderator: So, I, I assume then, um, and correct me if I'm wrong, I assume he came in at 09:07 hours, bought 36,000 euros, went away, and he came back at 10:17, so within 50 (ph 14.16) minutes and bought another 80,000?

(TC: 00:14:17)
M: He might have done.

(TC: 00:14:19)
Moderator: (inaudible 14.19) what you're saying, I-,

(TC: 00:14:20)
M: You're asking me what I've done a year ago, aren't you?

(TC: 00:14:22)
Moderator: No, but I-,

(TC: 00:14:22)
M: We do 7,500 transactions a year.

(TC: 00:14:24)
Moderator: Okay.

(TC: 00:14:25)
M: You're asking me to remember one certain transaction, aren't you?

(TC: 00:14:28)
Moderator: No, what I'm suggesting, I'm saying that that's how the till roll works.

(TC: 00:14:31)
M: Yeah, okay. Yeah.

(TC: 00:14:31)
Moderator: It's all a continuous sheet of paper, isn't it?

(TC: 00:14:33)
M: Yeah, that's correct.

(TC: 00:14:34)
Moderator: So therefore, if an entry goes in at 09:07, there'll be many entries after that, until we reach 10:17.

(TC: 00:14:40)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:14:40)
Moderator: So, making the assumption, he must have-, he's probably gone away, I, I assume he didn't sit there and have a coffee with you, for 50 minutes and then do another transaction, did he?

(TC: 00:14:48)
M: No, no, he never has a coffee with me and I don't-,

(TC: 00:14:51)
Moderator: So, so that's what he's done. He's gone-, he's gone in at 9:07, bought 36,000 euros and then 50 minutes later, at 10:17, he's come in and (talking over each other 15.00) and paid 47. Okay. Fine.

(TC: 00:15:04)
M: When was bank holiday last year, in May? Easter. Was it March? April? When was the bank holiday in May?

(TC: 00:15:11)
M: May. Err, March 29th, April 1st, May 6th.

(TC: 00:15:16)
M: May 6th. May 6th a Monday?

(TC: 00:15:20)
M: Monday, yeah.

(TC: 00:15:21)
M: Right. I wasn' t in the 6th, 7th or 8th.

(TC: 00:15:24)
Moderator: So you couldn't have done that transaction?

(TC: 00:15:25)
M: I don' t think so. I, I (inaudible 15.27) for the weekend. It may have been that period.

(TC: 00:15:31)
Moderator: Okay. alright.

(TC: 00:15:32)
M: But, if, you know, it could have been me.

(TC: 00:15:35)

Moderator: Okay. Well, you would have-, well, we certainly agree that it must have been you who did the reversal on the 9th, because nobody else would have been in at that time.

(TC: 00:15:41)
M: Yeah, okay, that' s, that' s fair, that' s a fair comment. Okay.

(TC: 00:15:44)
Moderator: So, it's also probably fair to say that, on the 9th, you may have well done the other transactions?

(TC: 00:15:47)
M: I probably well did 99%, yeah, I probably well did, yeah.

(TC: 00:15:51)
Moderator: Right. Let's move on a little bit further, then, err, on the 9th, um, of May and go to 16:23 hours.

(TC: 00:15:59)
M: Mmhmm?

(TC: 00:15:59)
Moderator: Okay? And we have another reversal.

(TC: 00:16:02)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:16:03)
Moderator: Reverse, 80,000, £47,337.28. Can you explain why that was reversed?

(TC: 00:16:12)
M: No. Is the reverse thing later on? Is that reversed straight away? I mean-,

(TC: 00:16:16)
Moderator: No. No, because the transaction was done at 10:17. This is later in the afternoon.

(TC: 00:16:23)
M: No.

(TC: 00:16:24)
Moderator: You can't explain it?

(TC: 00:16:25)
M: Not off the top of me head, no.

(TC: 00:16:27)
Moderator: Right. So-,

(TC: 00:16:30)
M: I mean, I might not have-, I mean, obviously, when-, I might not have balanced the till. I mean I obviously balanced the till because there's 128 transactions. Or, I might not have thought I'd done it and I've done it again, by accident.

(TC: 00:16:48)
Moderator: Right. So, so, he must have-, 10:17 he bought 80,000 euros.

(TC: 00:16:57)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:16:58)
Moderator: He must have walked away, because he always puts them in a holdall, doesn't he, the black holdall?

(TC: 00:17:02)
M: Yeah (talking over each other 17.04).

(TC: 00:17:04)
Moderator: He's left the office?

(TC: 00:17:05)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:17:05)
Moderator: Right. So, somebody reversed it.

(TC: 00:17:09)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:17:09)
Moderator: That transaction at, um, later in the day at 16-, what did I say? 16, 16:23 hours. Did he bring 'em back?

(TC: 00:17:18)
M: Well, I wouldn't have thought so, no. But according to that, I haven't balanced the till. I've probably been struggling to balance the till 'cause it doesn't-,

(TC: 00:17:24)
Moderator: Yeah, but why does-, why does balancing the till have anything to do with it?

(TC: 00:17:28)
M: What do you mean by that?

(TC: 00:17:29)
Moderator: Well, there's a transaction which clearly happened at 10:17.

(TC: 00:17:32)
M: Well, if it happened at 10:17 and I'd have got 80,000 euros, then I might have sold it by accident.

(TC: 00:17:37)
Moderator: Sold it by accident?

(TC: 00:17:39)
M: Well, you don't sell it, it's not physically giving someone the money, are you?

(TC: 00:17:41)
Moderator: Well, you are, aren't you? Wasn't that what you do in the bureau?

(TC: 00:17:45)
M: Yes, but I' m just, I' m just thinking of the forward money changing machine, aren' t I? Talking about.

(TC: 00:17:51)
Moderator: Right.

(TC: 00:17:51)
M: The only thing I can do regarding reversing is, I' ve done something completely wrong, or, you know, unless somebody else has done something wrong on a machine and, err, I' m trying to reverse and put it right.

(TC: 00:18:04)
Moderator: Right.

(TC: 00:18:05)
M: I mean, I have to balance the till at the end of each week, don' t I?

(TC: 00:18:08)
Moderator: Yes, I know.

(TC: 00:18:08)
M: I mean, I' ve not not balanced the till, I' m not trying to hide anything, I' m not trying to turn round and say, ' Oh, I' m gonna make £80,000 out of this, or €80,000,' I just-, you' re just trying to balance the till. I mean, I make mistakes more than anybody else.

(TC: 00:18:21)
Moderator: Yeah, but, but, but Carl, if you-, if you're saying that, that later in the day you're trying to balance the bureau till-,

(TC: 00:18:27)
M: From the previous week, yeah?

(TC: 00:18:29)
Moderator: Yeah, and, and it's showing a, a discrepancy, um, why would you choose this, err, this transaction to reverse?

(TC: 00:18:36)
M: I don't know. Until-, unless I'm there, that physically doing it that time, I don't know.

(TC: 00:18:41)
Moderator: Right. Okay. So, you can't explain why it-, why that was reversed?

(TC: 00:18:46)
M: Only for that I couldn't balance.

(TC: 00:18:48)
Moderator: Okay. This might help you, then. Err, let's move on to one minute after, um, that reversal.

(TC: 00:18:55)
M: Okay.

(TC: 00:18:56)
Moderator: On the 9th of May, again, 16:24, um, you now sell 72,000, err, euros at 1.69 and the amount is £42,603.55.

(TC: 00:19:09)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:19:10)
Moderator: Yeah? Does that help you?

(TC: 00:19:13)
M: No.

(TC: 00:19:14)
Moderator: No?

(TC: 00:19:15)
M: I just don't know where you're coming from with that.

(TC: 00:19:18)
Moderator: Well, at the moment we've gone from the 8th of May where a transaction, err, supposedly happens for 36,000 euros, right?

(TC: 00:19:26)
M: Mmhmm. Yeah.

(TC: 00:19:28)
Moderator: Then we've gone on to the early hours of the 9th of May, where you reversed that transaction out. So, that, that transaction doesn't exist any more.

(TC: 00:19:36)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:19:36)
Moderator: Yeah? Then at 10:17, um, you, you've done another transaction for exactly the same amount, 36,000 euros, right?

(TC: 00:19:43)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:19:44)
Moderator: Then, at 10:57 there's another transaction done for 80,000 euros, so that looks like two transactions have been done on the 9th, but then at 16:23-,

(TC: 00:19:54)
M: That's reversed.

(TC: 00:19:54)
Moderator: The 80,000 was reversed, which leaves us with only one transaction.

(TC: 00:19:58)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:19:58)
Moderator: And then, err, one minute later, you do another transaction for 72,000.

(TC: 00:20:02)
M: I' m probably just trying to balance the books.

(TC: 00:20:04)
Moderator: So, was GRO physically present when all this was going on?

(TC: 00:20:07)
M: I would very much doubt it.

(TC: 00:20:08)
Moderator: You very much doubt it?

(TC: 00:20:09)
M: Yes.

(TC: 00:20:10)
Moderator: He was, or he wasn't, sorry?

(TC: 00:20:11)
M: No, I said I very much doubt that he was there.

(TC: 00:20:13)
Moderator: You-, right, so he wasn't-, he probably wasn't on the premises?

(TC: 00:20:16)
M: No, I just probably trying to balance everything up. That' s where my argument is about sending the cheques at the end of the week, because I make so much-, you can-, you can then have too many cheques, or you make a mistake and if all the information' s there for you, you can reverse and put everything right.

(TC: 00:20:30)
Moderator: So, how do you know which of these transactions actually exists or not?

(TC: 00:20:36)
M: At that present moment in time, I would have known what transactions exist and what don' t, but

you' re asking me what happened over a year ago, aren' t you?

(TC: 00:20:41)
Moderator: Sure, I appreciate that.

(TC: 00:20:43)
M: As I said, we do 7,500 transactions a year.

(TC: 00:20:45)
Moderator: Right.

(TC: 00:20:46)
M: And it' s not the only one, if you look at the till that' s been reversed.

(TC: 00:20:49)
Moderator: Right.

(TC: 00:20:50)
M: You know, it' s not just GRO there' s other ones that-,

(TC: 00:20:52)
Moderator: Let me, um, let me suggest something else to you then, as to the reason why you might have chosen to reverse certainly the one from the 8th to the 9th, okay and we've touched on it already. Different cash account weeks, aren't they?

(TC: 00:21:05)
M: Mmhmm.

(TC: 00:21:05)
Moderator: Yeah? If, if you did the transaction on the 8th of May, right? You would have presumably taken a cheque for it, wouldn't you?

(TC: 00:21:15)
M: I would have thought so, yes.

(TC: 00:21:17)
Moderator: Right. And being the cash account week, you would have had to send that cheque away on, on the Wednesday or the Thursday, wouldn't you?

(TC: 00:21:22)
M: That's correct, yes.

(TC: 00:21:23)
Moderator: Right. However, if you reverse that transaction out early on the Thursday, that transaction no longer exists in the previous cash account, does it?

(TC: 00:21:32)
M: No,it wouldn't.

(TC: 00:21:32)
Moderator: Then, shortly afterwards, maybe an hour or so later and you put the transaction back in, which is the next cash account week, isn't it?

(TC: 00:21:40)
M: Yes, but why would (talking over each other 21.41).

(TC: 00:21:41)
Moderator: Therefore, then that gives you another seven days before you dispose of the cheque.

(TC: 00:21:45)
M: Well, why do that when you can get audited on Thursday or Friday?

(TC: 00:21:49)
Moderator: Well, if you're audited on a Thursday or Friday, it makes no difference, because you've done the transaction and the-, and the cheque's there, isn't it?

(TC: 00:21:54)
M: Yeah, but if you're getting it on the Thursday, just go back and go through everything you've done for the previous week.

(TC: 00:21:58)

Moderator: They don't, do they? They wouldn't have been looking for that reversal, would they?

(TC: 00:22:00)
M: I don't know.

(TC: 00:22:01)
Moderator: They don't. I can assure you they wouldn't.

(TC: 00:22:03)
M: Well, I wouldn't know that, would I?

(TC: 00:22:05)
Moderator: No. You wouldn't know that, but let's-, let's discuss the cheques, then, shall we? (Silence 22.07-22.26). Okay. Let's have a look at the cheques. (Silence 22.28-22.52). Right. These are microfiche copies of the cheques that have been recovered from Data Central.

(TC: 00:22:59)
M: Okay.

(TC: 00:23:00)
Moderator: Okay. There are some poor quality um, um, copies in here, a bit hard to read some of them, but, err, most you can actually make out, okay?

(TC: 00:23:08)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:23:09)
Moderator: Now, let's go back to this, this schedule. Well, let's, let's refer to these receipts again. The 8th of May, okay?

(TC: 00:23:20)
M: Mmhmm.

(TC: 00:23:21)
Moderator: Let's take that one. €36,000, err, and the, um, sterling value's £21,301.78.

(TC: 00:23:26)
M: Okay.

(TC: 00:23:26)
Moderator: Yeah? Here's the cheque. Here's the cheque. As I say, it's, it's fairly poor quality. Um, it's cheque number, and I've written it down here-,

(TC: 00:23:41)
M: 10019.

(TC: 00:23:42)
Moderator: Yeah. That's it. Dated the 10th of May 2002.

(TC: 00:23:46)
M: Mmhmm.

(TC: 00:23:47)
Moderator: Which is a Friday.

(TC: 00:23:47)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:23:48)
Moderator: Okay, um, and the figures match, £21,301.72.

(TC: 00:23:55)
M: Okay. Yeah.

(TC: 00:23:55)
Moderator: Yeah? Now, that's the 10th of May, dated. That transaction supposedly took place on the-, on the 9th of May. Sorry, the 8th of May.

(TC: 00:24:03)
M: Mmhmm.

(TC: 00:24:04)
Moderator: Can you explain why that would be?

(TC: 00:24:06)
M: No. I wouldn't really put a date on, because I don't know (ph 24.08).

(TC: 00:24:08)
Moderator: But that's a post-dated cheque, isn't it? I mean, you've been a subpostmaster long enough to know not to take post, post-dated cheques, yeah? Surely you would have said, GRO **hang on a minute.'**

(TC: 00:24:17)
M: I put-, I have-, if you look at some of GRO cheques, the dates have been changed and he has signed the top.

(TC: 00:24:23)
Moderator: Okay. There's quite a number of post-dated cheques, and we'll talk about those.

(TC: 00:24:27)
M: Okay.

(TC: 00:24:28)
Moderator: But why do you accept post-dated cheques?

(TC: 00:24:31)
M: I don't accept post-dated cheques.

(TC: 00:24:32)
Moderator: Well, you clearly have there.

(TC: 00:24:38)
M: Is there not another one for €36,000 at all (ph 24.40)?

(TC: 00:24:41)
Moderator: Well, only on the 9th, because let's-, because you then-, you've then scrubbed this transaction, haven't you, because you've reversed it on the 9th.

(TC: 00:24:47)
M: Was the 8th a Thursday?

(TC: 00:24:48)
Moderator: Yes. No. Wednesday.

(TC: 00:24:50)
M: Wednesday.

(TC: 00:24:51)
Moderator: Um, the-, then we go onto, onto the, um, morning of the 9th, yeah?

(TC: 00:24:57)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:24:58)
Moderator: I'll remind you again, that's the one you've scrubbed from the previous day.

(TC: 00:25:00)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:25:01)
Moderator: Yeah, and then at-, then at 9:07am you put in the transaction again.

(TC: 00:25:06)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:25:07)
Moderator: Okay. It's still the 9th.

(TC: 00:25:08)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:25:09)
Moderator: Presumably he used that cheque to pay for it on the 9th.

(TC: 00:25:12)
M: Well, presumably he did, yes.

(TC: 00:25:13)
Moderator: But why did you accept it if you've got the 10th on it?

(TC: 00:25:15)
M: I don't know.

(TC: 00:25:17)
Moderator: No?

(TC: 00:25:18)
M: No.

(TC: 00:25:19)
Moderator: Okay.

(TC: 00:25:20)
M: I don't deliberately take post-dated cheques.

(TC: 00:25:22)
Moderator: Right, because you see that adds weight to my little argument or theory, doesn't it? That what you're doing is you're delaying these cheques purposely for him because if you delay the submission of that cheque-,

(TC: 00:25:35)
M: Mmhmm.

(TC: 00:25:36)
Moderator: He can buy more euros before that's even presented to his bank account, and we'll discuss that a little later on.

(TC: 00:25:43)
M: Okay.

(TC: 00:25:44)
Moderator: You see? And that's the whole reason. I think he did buy €36,000 on the, um-,

(TC: 00:25:49)
M: At 15:39pm?

(TC: 00:25:50)
Moderator: On the-, on the 8th, yes, and I think that you reversed that entry so that you could stick back the transaction on Thursday, which is the new cash account week-,

(TC: 00:26:02)
M: Mmhmm.

(TC: 00:26:02)
Moderator: And leave that cheque before you dispatched it. Do you know when you dispatched that cheque?

(TC: 00:26:06)
M: (Inaudible 26.06) the following Wednesday.

(TC: 00:26:07)
Moderator: Indeed. You did, and the following Wednesday was the 15th of May, and there's my theory.

(TC: 00:26:16)
M: Right.

(TC: 00:26:17)
Moderator: Yeah. Why did you delay that cheque?

(TC: 00:26:20)
M: As I said, I' ve told you the reason why I told you before. I delay the cheques not deliberately, but because I make silly mistakes, and you can ask Margaret and Jane. They' ve, err, reversed-,

(TC: 00:26:29)
Moderator: No. Margaret and Jane-,

(TC: 00:26:30)
F: We'll let him finish answering the question.

(TC: 00:26:31)
Moderator: Sorry. Apologies.

(TC: 00:26:32)
M: I've reversed cheques accidentally.

(TC: 00:26:35)
Moderator: Sorry.

(TC: 00:26:35)
M: (Mw 26.36) reversed as remmed out (ph 26.37) cheques and got the figures reversed.

(TC: 00:26:39)
Moderator: Right.

(TC: 00:26:38)
M: Have you asked that question?

(TC: 00:26:41)
Moderator: Remmed out cheques and got the figures reversed?

(TC: 00:26:43)
M: Yeah. Like you say, there's five cheques and they add up to £123,000. She's put £132,000. Added it all up, put £132,000 by mistake.

(TC: 00:26:50)
Moderator: Right, but see, again, it goes back to what Jane told me, that she-, and she's put it in her statement that she's been physically instructed by you not to send away the (talking over each

other 26.59).

(TC: 00:26:59)
M: Yes, because I-, because I like to do the cheques so there's no, pardon my French, balls-up at the end of the week, because it's a lot of money, and there's a lot of transactions that we do.

(TC: 00:27:07)
Moderator: Yeah, but, but they were sending away daily cheques on a daily basis. How much do they send away, about £50,000-60,000 a week, don't they? A day, sorry. Don't they?

(TC: 00:27:16)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:27:16)
Moderator: Right. This one here, and all show you the, the BCV, which is the batch control voucher.

(TC: 00:27:22)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:27:22)
Moderator: You know what that is, don't you?

(TC: 00:27:23)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:27:24)
Moderator: That's the batch control voucher.

(TC: 00:27:26)
M: 52.

(TC: 00:27:26)
Moderator: 52 cheques were sent away, including these three which are on here.

(TC: 00:27:31)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:27:32)
Moderator: And one we talked about.

(TC: 00:27:33)
M: All the below, yeah?

(TC: 00:27:35)
Moderator: Not all of them.

(TC: 00:27:35)
M: Okay. Yeah.

(TC: 00:27:36)
Moderator: No. This is for the office.

(TC: 00:27:37)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:27:38)
Moderator: These three, which are attached to this, are in relation to GRO cheques.

(TC: 00:27:41)
M: Okay.

(TC: 00:27:42)
Moderator: Okay? So, on the 15th, which is the Wednesday, which is the end of the cash count week.

(TC: 00:27:46)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:27:46)

Moderator: Right. 52 cheques were sent away. Now, you're saying that, 'Well, Jane and these guys might make some, some mistakes,' but they're sending away cheques on a daily basis (talking over each other 27.56).

(TC: 00:27:56)
M: They put their money in the till every day, don't they? I, I don't do that in the bureau.

(TC: 00:28:01)
Moderator: Yeah, but you're supposed to, aren't you?

(TC: 00:28:03)
M: Yes.

(TC: 00:28:04)
Moderator: Yeah, and, and-,

(TC: 00:28:04)
M: But I was told about that in July, when I got pulled in July, August, when I got pulled in.

(TC: 00:28:09)
Moderator: Indeed, you were.

(TC: 00:28:09)
M: (Inaudible 28.10).

(TC: 00:28:11)
Moderator: Yeah, so why, when we talk about incidents later, after June and July, do you still delay cheques?

(TC: 00:28:18)
M: I don't deliberately delay cheques. I get the cheques out when I can. If that's the case, why did certain cheques for GRO bounce, if I was in cahoots with the gentleman you just-,

(TC: 00:28:27)
Moderator: Well, they bounce for a separate reason, and I know those reasons, but I don't need to go into them here, and that's to do with Thomas Cook restricting how much money you could pay

into their account.

(TC: 00:28:39)
M: If I was in cahoots with the gentleman I'd just-, you know-,

(TC: 00:28:41)
Moderator: Well, you're, you're certainly helping along. I mean, you've seen the scam that GRO GRO **is performing, haven't you? You know what he does now, don't you?**

(TC: 00:28:49)
M: Err, not officially. I haven't been told, no.

(TC: 00:28:51)
Moderator: But haven't you worked it out?

(TC: 00:28:52)
M: I've been told-, well, I've worked it out, what I can tell, um, but nobody's physically turned around and told me what exact-, exactly he's doing.

(TC: 00:28:57)
Moderator: Well, he buys 'em cheap off you, he finds himself someone who's amenable to giving preferential rates-,

(TC: 00:29:03)
M: Mmhmm.

(TC: 00:29:03)
Moderator: Right, which is you.

(TC: 00:29:04)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:29:05)
Moderator: Right. He buys the euros from you at a discounted value.

(TC: 00:29:07)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:29:08)
Moderator: And then he goes, toddles off down the road to Thomas Cook or one other-, ahh, some other bureau de change outlet.

(TC: 00:29:14)
M: Mmhmm.

(TC: 00:29:14)
Moderator: And he cashes them in, and thereby he makes a vast profit.

(TC: 00:29:17)
M: Mmhmm.

(TC: 00:29:18)
Moderator: And that's what he does, and that's his little scam.

(TC: 00:29:21)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:29:22)
Moderator: Right. Now, in order for him to do that, one, he has to find someone like you.

(TC: 00:29:26)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:29:27)
Moderator: Which he has.

(TC: 00:29:29)
M: What do you mean by that? What do you mean by that?

(TC: 00:29:30)

Moderator: Someone who's going to give him preferential rates.

(TC: 00:29:33)
M: Why do you think I give him preferential rates?

(TC: 00:29:35)
Moderator: Well, that's what we're here to determine, isn't it?

(TC: 00:29:36)
M: Mmhmm.

(TC: 00:29:38)
Moderator: Yeah. You say you did it for the business.

(TC: 00:29:40)
M: That's correct.

(TC: 00:29:41)
Moderator: Well, I'll be showing you that you clearly didn't do it for the business because you've not made us a penny. In fact, you made us a loss.

(TC: 00:29:45)
M: Well, Mr Page has given you an answer, and, um-,

(TC: 00:29:50)
Moderator: And I'm just saying that I'll be able to demonstrate that this-, these are losses as opposed to profits.

(TC: 00:29:53)
M: You've already pointed that out to me.

(TC: 00:29:56)
Moderator: So, he-, sorry. Go on.

(TC: 00:29:59)

M: Is it every day you get a fax (TC 00:30:00) giving you the rates?

(TC: 00:30:03)
M: Yes.

(TC: 00:30:03)
M: That gives you the buyback rate and the-, the selling rate and the buyback rate?

(TC: 00:30:04)
M: Yes. Yes.

(TC: 00:30:07)
M: Did you not look, when you were giving these preferential rates, that you were actually giving rates (talking over each other 30.12).

(TC: 00:30:12)
M: But I got-, I went-, as I said to Mr Patel when I first got interviewed and the police on the 13th and 14th of Jan, that I went off the rates that came in from Hemel Hempstead, you know, the buyback and it' ll say 1.69, I' ll go 1.68, but because the amount that was going through, I thought I was making the Post Office money, and I' ve been doing it for two, two, maybe three years, eighteen months, 24 months, I don' t know how long it' s been, I' ve been having the money off Hemel Hempstead, I' ve been sending the cheques. No one' s flagged up before about the cheques being coming in once a week, and I didn' t-,

(TC: 00:30:44)
M: Have you looked at-, I don' t know how experienced you are, because I wasn' t in, in the other interviews, but I you look at the rates that you' re actually giving, and the buyback rate, you must' ve worked out yourself that you' re giving someone a rate where they can just walk round the corner and change it back and make a profit.

(TC: 00:31:00)
M: No.

(TC: 00:31:01)
M: That would be on there, wouldn' t it? Every morning you' d get the, the rate that you should be selling and the rate that they' re buying back.

(TC: 00:31:07)

M: Yeah, but you can go on the open market and you can go to a bank and say, 'If I'm gonna guarantee somebody £7 million or euros a year,' they'll give you the rates, roughly, that I was giving, I should think.

(TC: 00:31:17)
M: Yeah, but not the rates that you're supposed to sell at.

(TC: 00:31:21)
M: No, but I wanted business for the Post Office, so all I made out of this was X amount per transaction.

(TC: 00:31:26)
Moderator: Why, why didn't you set up GRO **as a corporate client?**

(TC: 00:31:33)
M: I never even considered a corporate client.

(TC: 00:31:35)
Moderator: You would never consider that?

(TC: 00:31:38)
M: No. I don't know how it works, whether-, I thought corporate clients were people that do a lot of transactions per week.

(TC: 00:31:43)
Moderator: What do you call-, what do you call £8 million worth of euros in a-, in a year?

(TC: 00:31:48)
M: Okay.

(TC: 00:31:48)
Moderator: Some of our corporate clients don't turn over that.

(TC: 00:31:51)
M: Okay.

(TC: 00:31:51)

Moderator: So, why didn't you?

(TC: 00:31:52)
M: Nobody's flagged it up with me before.

(TC: 00:31:55)
Moderator: Well, how would they flag it up to you when they didn't know he existed?

(TC: 00:31:58)
M: Well, he didn't-, well, they must've known he existed 'cause the cheques were sent every week with amounts-, the large amounts that he was given, plus-,

(TC: 00:32:04)
Moderator: Forgive me, but I don't think anyone actually sits there with a vast quantity of cheques, um-,

(TC: 00:32:10)
M: Can I finish answering the question?

(TC: 00:32:12)
Moderator: Sorry. I apologise.

(TC: 00:32:13)
M: And Hemel Hempstead knew how much was-, I was sending, and the area managers (mw 32.17) that there's one, one person who came in who's doing a lot of transactions.

(TC: 00:32:22)
Moderator: Right. We'll, we'll talk about that with, with Laurie Hutchins, who's the man who spoke to you.

(TC: 00:32:26)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:32:27)
Moderator: We'll talk about that a little later on, err, about the conversation which took place over Christmas.

(TC: 00:32:31)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:32:31)
Moderator: Okay. Um, let's just go back, um, um, to the 18th, then. Sorry, the 8th. Ah. (Silence 32.39-32.49). Okay, so I think we've established that, that there wasn't a transaction which occurred on the 8th, albeit that there was some, um, mix-up with the having put the transaction (talking over each other 33.00) on the 3rd.

(TC: 00:33:01)
M: Okay.

(TC: 00:33:02)
Moderator: However, doesn't explain why a cheque for the-, was taken which was dated the 10th and then subsequently wasn't dispatched 'til seven days later on the 15th. No explanation for that.

(TC: 00:33:11)
M: I have given the explanation for that.

(TC: 00:33:12)
Moderator: Okay. Alright. This is the, um-, this is the till roll. Um. This is the actual till roll for the 8th, sorry, the 9th of (mw 33.27)-, sorry. (Silence 33.27-33.41). Oh, no. I was using the right thing. Okay. The transaction that you did, then, on the 9th, alright?

(TC: 00:33:54)
M: Mmhmm.

(TC: 00:34:02)
Moderator: Right, at 10:17am for €80,000, okay?

(TC: 00:34:06)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:34:06)
Moderator: You sold them to him at 1.69.

(TC: 00:34:08)
M: Mmhmm.

(TC: 00:34:09)
Moderator: And you paid that amount, £47,371.28 (ph 34.12), okay? Now, (no speech 34.12-34.23) using this schedule MP3, if we look at the 9th, which is over the page, okay, there's a transaction shown there.

(TC: 00:34:33)
M: Mmhmm.

(TC: 00:34:33)
Moderator: Um. Sorry, that's 72. Where's the-,

(TC: 00:34:37)
M: 36.

(TC: 00:34:38)
Moderator: 36. Um. (Silence 34.39-34.56). Okay. Um. 36. No. Okay. Let's leave the 8th. Right. Let's have a look at Tuesday the 28th of May. Right. Tuesday 28th of May. There's a till receipt. Okay.

(TC: 00:35:33)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:35:34)
Moderator: Um. 9:17am, 28th of May, um, you transfer in €60,000.

(TC: 00:35:42)
M: Mmhmm.

(TC: 00:35:43)
Moderator: Right. So that would have been in euros which came from Hemel Hempstead.

(TC: 00:35:45)

M: Okay.

(TC: 00:35:46)
Moderator: Yeah. They give a rate, do they? They give you, on their little sheet they give you a rate that you book 'em in at, yeah?

(TC: 00:35:52)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:35:52)
Moderator: Okay. The rate they gave you was 1.6764.

(TC: 00:35:56)
M: And I give 'em 1.67 down there.

(TC: 00:35:58)
Moderator: Right, and, um, and for that it, it works out at a sterling value of £35,790.98, yeah?

(TC: 00:36:07)
M: Mmhmm.

(TC: 00:36:08)
Moderator: Okay. Then, um, on the same, same time, 0719-,

(TC: 00:36:13)
M: Mmhmm.

(TC: 00:36:13)
Moderator: So, presumably GRO **was probably standing there in front of you?**

(TC: 00:36:17)
M: Yes.

(TC: 00:36:18)
Moderator: Yeah. You sell him, err, €55,000, right, at 1.67, for which he pays £32,934.13, yeah?

(TC: 00:36:28)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:36:29)
Moderator: Okay. Now, that's transferring in €60,000. If we transfer in €55,000 to make the two equate, okay, the sterling value, that €55,000 at 1.6764 would have worked out to be £32,808.40, okay?

(TC: 00:36:51)
M: Okay.

(TC: 00:36:52)
Moderator: If you take that away from what he actually paid you, right, you're left with £125.73. That's the difference. Right. You were given a wholesale rate to book 'em in at.

(TC: 00:37:03)
M: Mmhmm.

(TC: 00:37:04)
Moderator: Right. You sold them, um, for a value which made, and I use the word made loosely, £125.73 in that transaction.

(TC: 00:37:14)
M: Okay.

(TC: 00:37:16)
Moderator: Yeah? That selling €55,000, and you made £1, sorry, £125.73 in that transaction, do you think that's good business sense?

(TC: 00:37:27)
M: The amount of volume we was doing (ph 37.28), yes I do, with the Post Office, and the Post Office, I would say, makes more than £125.73.

(TC: 00:37:35)
Moderator: Okay. How many euros do you think you would have had to sell properly using the

published rate to make the same profit?

(TC: 00:37:41)
M: I don't know.

(TC: 00:37:43)
Moderator: No? You don't know?

(TC: 00:37:43)
M: Not on the top of my head, no.

(TC: 00:37:44)
Moderator: Have a guess.

(TC: 00:37:46)
M: Come on. Ask a proper question.

(TC: 00:37:48)
Moderator: Okay. If I said to you €2,000, you would have only had to sell €2,000 at the proper published rate to make £127.10.

(TC: 00:37:56)
M: Okay. Are you telling me that all the transactions I've done over the year, 7,500 transactions, that I've made the Post Office a loss?

(TC: 00:38:03)
Moderator: Yes.

(TC: 00:38:04)
M: You are?

(TC: 00:38:05)
Moderator: Yes.

(TC: 00:38:05)

M: I made the Post Office no money at all?

(TC: 00:38:08)
Moderator: You made the Post Office a loss in relation to GRO transactions.

(TC: 00:38:12)
M: Right.

(TC: 00:38:15)
Moderator: I haven't examined all the others. I don't know, but you certainly have for GRO GRO as I've demonstrated with that schedule there.

(TC: 00:38:22)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:38:22)
Moderator: (Talking over each other 38.23) a £90,000 difference.

(TC: 00:38:25)
M: I can't believe the Post Office-, you're telling me the Post Office buys in at 1.6764 from Bank of Ireland and First Data?

(TC: 00:38:31)
Moderator: Yeah.

(TC: 00:38:34)
M: Right.

(TC: 00:38:34)
Moderator: So, with that transaction, for selling €55,000, right, you made £125.73, right?

(TC: 00:38:43)
M: Okay.

(TC: 00:38:44)

Moderator: All you needed to do was sell £2,000 at the normal published rate and make £127.10. Now, I'm not a businessman, Carl, right, but that, to me, doesn't make sense. Your argument is that, 'I'm turning over vast amounts of money for GRO therefore making a bigger profit for the Post Office.' Well, clearly you're not.

(TC: 00:39:04)
M: Mr Page has already answered the question. He's told you in terms, in previous interviews and during this interview why those transactions have been undertaken and you're just conjecturing and seeking to use another example that doesn't actually amount to a question. Ask him a proper question, please.

(TC: 00:39:27)
Moderator: I thought I had.

(TC: 00:39:29)
M: Well, Mr Page has already answered the question in previous interviews and in this interview.

(TC: 00:39:33)
Moderator: Okay. Let's move onto Saturday 10th of August, then.

(TC: 00:39:45)
M: Could I ask a question? Are you going to go through saying this is how much I've lost the Post Office-,

(TC: 00:39:48)
Moderator: I'm picking some examples out, yes. Yeah. Is that a problem?

(TC: 00:39:52)
M: No. I haven't got a problem with that, no.

(TC: 00:39:54)
Moderator: Okay. Um. Saturday the 10th of August. Um. We start with (TC 00:40:00) the transfer in on the 9th of August, okay, at 08:58am hours. You transfer in €85,000.

(TC: 00:40:11)
M: Okay.

(TC: 00:40:12)
Moderator: Okay? At 1.6685, which gives a sterling value of £50,943.96.

(TC: 00:40:19)
M: Okay.

(TC: 00:40:20)
Moderator: Okay. Right. Then, on the 10th of August, right, a day later, at 09:36am, you sell, presumably with GRO €80,000 at 1.67.

(TC: 00:40:35)
M: Mmhmm.

(TC: 00:40:36)
Moderator: Yeah? And the sterling value is £47,904.19. If you flick that over you'll probably get to the 8th of August. Is it there? There it is. Okay? Here. Now, having a look at those two figures, right, and again, they're different-, sorry. They're exactly the same amounts this time, €80,000 (talking over each other 40.58).

(TC: 00:40:57)
M: Does that €80,000 correspond to that transfer, or is it £80,000 from earlier on?

(TC: 00:41:03)
Moderator: Sorry? How do you mean?

(TC: 00:41:05)
M: Does that €80,000 there-, I mean, what you're going to say is that, 'You bought in at that, Mr Page (ph 41.09), but you sold it at that,' but how do you-, that €80,000 might correspond to something earlier. It might be 1.674 or .679 or something else like that.

(TC: 00:41:19)
Moderator: Well-,

(TC: 00:41:18)
M: And I might have sold €80,000 (inaudible 41.21) at 1.66.

(TC: 00:41:23)
Moderator: No. Well, I've gone through the till rolls. What I've been doing is extracting when you transfer something in, right, and the next time you do a transaction, which is that.

(TC: 00:41:31)
M: Okay.

(TC: 00:41:31)
Moderator: So from when you transferred it in at 8:58am on the 9th, there wasn't any more transfers in.

(TC: 00:41:37)
M: Okay.

(TC: 00:41:38)
Moderator: And there isn't any other transfer (talking over each other 41.39).

(TC: 00:41:39)
M: How much stock did I have in from previous, from the previous week or anything?

(TC: 00:41:43)
Moderator: That I don't know.

(TC: 00:41:45)
M: Okay.

(TC: 00:41:46)
Moderator: No, but-,

(TC: 00:41:46)
M: So that could've been from the previous week, couldn't it?

(TC: 00:41:49)
Moderator: I don't know. I don't follow. How could it have been previous? But it doesn't matter, does it, because here on the 9th you're transferring-, see, you said before to us, right, you get in euros for GRO right?

(TC: 00:42:01)
M: Yeah.

(TC: 00:42:01)
Moderator: So-,

(TC: 00:42:01)
M: But in August you get a lot of-, I would get-, keep getting a lot of euros in over August because of the holidays.

(TC: 00:42:08)
Moderator: Right, but you, you ordered these euros specifically for him, and (talking over each other 42.12).

(TC: 00:42:13)
M: Yeah. Okay. The majority of it for him, yes.

(TC: 00:42:15)
Moderator: Right.

(TC: 00:42:16)
M: But what I'm trying to say is that you saying, 'There's €80,000 there you've sold at 1.67.' If I made a mistake, I made a mistake, but that 1.67, it might have been 1.68 for something earlier in the week or previous week. You're trying to point out that I'm giving the euros away at a loss.

(TC: 00:42:34)
Moderator: Yeah.

(TC: 00:42:35)
M: What I'm trying to say is that maybe that €80,000 might correspond to euros I transferred on a Monday (ph 42.40) before that.

(TC: 00:42:42)
Moderator: But, but why should those come into the equation? So, you're saying they could have been euros transferred in on the 8th of August, right.

(TC: 00:42:50)
M: Maybe, yeah.

(TC: 00:42:51)
Moderator: But why do they come into the equation for this?

(TC: 00:42:53)
M: Because they' re still trying to-,

(TC: 00:42:55)
Moderator: That's two days later, and you, in the meantime, you had a transfer in on the 9th for €85,000.

(TC: 00:43:01)
M: (Talking over each other 43.02) have €80,000 in stock and I bought at 1.67, and because I wanted to still make a profit for the Post Office I' ve only sold (ph 43.08) at 1.67.

(TC: 00:43:09)
Moderator: Well, I mean, just demonstrating that very briefly before this tape runs out, um, that €85,000 transferred in, but if we equate that to €80,000 transferred in, right, the sterling value would have been £47,947.26. You sell for £47,904.19, which gives us a difference of £43.07, and as before, you would only need to sell €700 to make £44.44.

(TC: 00:43:37)
M: Okay.

(TC: 00:43:38)
Moderator: So that's €80,000, and you made £43 on it.

(TC: 00:43:42)
M: So the Post Office have only made £44 out of it?

(TC: 00:43:44)
Moderator: They haven't, in fact, because as I said to you, that by the time you work out overheads and all the other bits and pieces-,

(TC: 00:43:48)
M: So the Post Office, you said to me the Post Office-, say, I bought-, I transferred in all that (ph 43.52) at 1.6685, that' s the rate the Post Office buy it in at?

(TC: 00:43:56)
Moderator: Yeah.

(TC: 00:43:56)
M: That' s what you said.

(TC: 00:43:57)
Moderator: Yeah.

(TC: 00:43:58)
M: Okay.

(TC: 00:44:00)
Moderator: Err, this tape's surely gonna run out, so can I just ask you again, Carl, to sign that tape serial number on the top for us, please? Um, 05803. Thank you, and Patrick. Thank you.

(TC: 00:44:12)
F: Thank you.

(TC: 00:44:17)
Moderator: Okay, and the time now, then, being 17:15pm hours. I' m suspending this tape. Cheers. (Silence 44.23-44.44).