

Memo



The Real Network

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10th November 2005

Investigation Team Post Office Limited

c.c. Diane Matthews

ROYAL MAIL GROUP plc v HUGHIE NOEL THOMAS
CASE NO: POLTD/0506/0401

Noted. I note the circumstances which led to the apprehension of the offender for theft / false accounting.

When apprehended for the loss of £48,000 the offender gave limited replies in answer to questions he mainly responded "No Comment". He suggests that the loss may be due to problems he was experiencing with the Horizon system. These concern the number of zero entries shown against on line banking transactions.

I understand that checks made by the Officer suggest there are no calls to the Helpline reporting this problem.

In interview the offender was informed that checks would be made.

- 1 To establish that the Horizon system was working properly (I understand this is being done) and
- 2 In particular to enquire whether the zero entries could have contributed to the £48,000 loss.

I understand from the Officer that the result of these checks (at 1 and 2 above) are awaited. Further I understand that efforts will be made to obtain the Fujitsu records which show the underlying reason for the nil transaction.

When checking the records it may be prudent to go back to about one year being the date the offender claims (to the Auditors) that his problems started. If it is to be the prosecution case that the offender stole the money it will be necessary to disprove any claims that the loss could have been attributed to the nil transactions.

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Once records have been obtained and enquiries completed then consideration should be given to whether or not the Defendant should be re-interviewed and the findings put to him. If enquiries cannot be completed by the 29th November then I suggest that the offender is re-bailed to a later date, this could be arranged with the Police and his Solicitors.

The file should be returned in due course, together with a report or statement outlining the procedure for dealing with on line banking transactions.

J A McFarlane
Principal Lawyer
Criminal Law Division

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