

46

POST OFFICE CONFIDENTIAL – INVESTIGATION, LEGAL

To Jarnail Singh
Senior Lawyer

POLTD/0910/0070

Date 09/07/10

REF: Mrs Rooprit Gill – CRM/264834/JSX

Further to your memo dated 07 May 2010 and our telephone conversation on 09 July 2010, I am returning the case file to you today, for advice on bringing criminal charges against Mrs Gill. As discussed with you today, I have obtained witness statements from the 3 customers in respect of the £2,500, £2,075.57 and £71.00 A&L deposits. Copies of these 3 statements are associated at Appendix A.

Associated at Appendix B, is a copy of item HW/1 (see Ward statement for full explanation), which is a Post Office card account receipt for 18/08/09, the day that Ms Ward made her £71.00 deposit, which wasn't processed on Horizon. I also associate at Appendix B, an extract from the Credence database, showing HW/1 entered at 09.15 hrs by RGI005 but not the £71.00 A&L deposit. I would need to obtain Horizon data from Fujitsu should it subsequently be needed to produce this data.

As mentioned in our telephone call, I have firstly telephoned the local branch of Lloyds TSB and then written to them to request under DPA, contact details of Mr Lama in respect of the £11,620 cheque processed on Horizon 2 minutes before the arrival of the audit team. The reverse of the cheque was annotated NS&I Income Bonds. I have spoken to Stan Zure, NS&I Fraud Section, who has advised that there is no record of any Mr S Lama in the Birmingham area having any Income Bonds, or any other NS&I bonds, stocks or accounts.

There does appear to be some difficulty in proving at this stage that Mrs Gill is the person who has stolen the money, although my belief is that she has. The difficulty being, her 'no comment' response to the majority of questions put to her at interview and the possible implication that her now deceased husband may have been responsible.

GRO

GRO

GRO

Whether or not Mrs Gill has stolen the money herself, it would seem apparent that she has played a key role in concealing the deficit in this branch, namely by not processing lottery transactions and not amending her scratchcard on hand figures when receiving TC's, despite being suspended for this previously. There is also the £10,000 remittance that wasn't found at audit but then 'found' by Mrs Gill a few days later, as well as the A&L deposits, of which Mrs Than is sure that she was served by a middle age Asian lady when depositing the £2,500 on 10 June 2009.

In view of the above you may feel that fraud charges covering 06 November 2008 (date Mrs Gill was previously re-instated) to 19 August 2009 (date of audit) are more fitting than theft charges. You may also feel that it would be appropriate to formulate a single charge at this stage, for the total amount of £38,026.57, which I am investigating, although as stated in my initial report, there is further debt against Mrs Gill, which wasn't brought to our attention at the time and Mrs Gill was re-instated.

47

POST OFFICE CONFIDENTIAL – INVESTIGATION, LEGAL

As discussed, Mrs Gill is due to return to bail next Friday, 16 July 2010. As such, please would you give consideration to formulating charges by close of play Tuesday 13 July; in order that Andy Hayward can give authority to proceed and that I can fax charges in advance to custody at Thornhill Road Police Station.

Please advise me if you require any further information at this stage.

GRO

Graham Brander
Security Advisor

Tel: **GRO**

Mobile: **GRO**