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Memo



25 March 2010

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POST OFFICE LTD -v- ALISON HENDERSON
CASE POLTD/0910/0167

I understand from the papers that an audit discovered a shortage of just in excess of £11,900 at a sub post office that was only open on a limited basis.

I also understand from the papers that whilst the suspect would maintain that she was unaware of the loss, the suspicion is that when she completed the branch trading statement on 6 January 2010 she would have been aware of the loss. Could you explain to me why she would have been aware of the loss? I note there is reference to a table in Appendix B which leads to the suspicion that she knew of the loss. I am not able to understand why it shows that she would have been aware that the accounts were short on that occasion.

Presumably, we would be able to interrogate Horizon and establish a full accounting pattern for the sub office to show all transactions that were conducted and therefore how much money was paid out, how much was received in remittances and therefore how much should have been present in the account.

Accordingly, I would like to understand how it is that we can pinpoint where this loss occurred. You may think it sensible at this stage bearing in mind it is most unlikely that she will plead guilty that we start to put together full witness and exhibit bundles.

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Please resubmit to me in due course when the exhibits are available to explain when the loss occurred so that I can draft the appropriate charges.

GRO

Rob G Wilson
Head of Criminal Law
Criminal Law Division

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