

Royal Mail Group

CONFIDENTIAL Witness Statement

Criminal Justice Act 1967, Section 9; Magistrates Court Act 1980, sub section, 5A(3)(a) and 5B; Criminal Procedure Rules 2005, Rule 27.1

Statement of: Adam SHAW

Age if under 18: Over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18')

This statement (consisting of 2 pages each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe true.

Dated the 20 day of September 2011

Signature

I am the person named above and am currently employed by Post Office Ltd as a Field Support Officer. Part of my duty is to visit Post Office Branches and reconcile the figures in the Post Office accounts with the physical cash, stock and paid vouchers actually on hand in order to establish that there is no loss of Post Office funds.

Post Office Branches use a fully automated computerised accounting system known as Horizon. The Post Office accounting system is such that each Post Office Branch produces a monthly Branch Trading Statement. This monthly period is known as the Branch Trading Period. Each Branch Trading Period consists of either four or five weeks, with each week running from start of business on the Thursday to close of business on the Wednesday.

At the end of each Branch Trading Period, a Trading Statement should be printed and signed by the Postmaster. The Trading Statement should be a true reflection of all cash and stock on hand and represent all transactions conducted in that period.

The Horizon system is also able to produce an Office Snapshot, which summarises the state of the accounts, including the amount of cash required for the accounts to balance, and takes into account all transactions up to the time the snapshot was generated. An Office Snapshot can be generated at any time.

At 08.30 hrs on 30 March 2011 I attended Rowlands Castle Post Office with my colleague Mrs Sarah Juliff and introduced ourselves to the postmaster Mrs Lynette Hutchings. Mrs Hutchings was present in the Post Office secure area when Mrs Juliff and I conducted a full audit in respect of the cash, stock and vouchers held at that branch. This identified a net deficit in the accounts of £9,743.76, of which £10,868.08 was due to a shortage

Signature

Signature witnessed by

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Continuation Statement of Adam Shaw

in the cash, £905.43 was due to a surplus in the stock, £132.10 was due to a surplus in the postage stamps and £86.79 was due to a surplus in the foreign currency. I now produce a schedule detailing the state of the accounts as item AS/1.

Mrs Hutchings confirmed that our figures were correct but did not offer any explanation as to why the Post Office accounts were showing a deficit of £9,743.76. Mrs Hutchings did not make good any part of the deficit at the time and as such the amount of £9,743.76 was posted to what is known as Late Account.

I relayed my findings to Mr Nigel Allen, Contracts Advisor who precautionary suspended Mrs Hutchings.

Signature

Signature witnessed by