
From: Martin Humphreys [REDACTED] **GRO**
Sent: Thur 26/07/2012 2:34:39 PM (UTC)
To: Batten Peter (ShEx) [REDACTED] **GRO**
Cc: Whitehead Mike (ShEx) [REDACTED] **GRO** Mike
Granville [REDACTED] **GRO**
Subject: FW: Albert Owen - JFSA
Attachment: IncomingletterfromAlbertOwenMPtoNL_1342445030946[1].pdf
Attachment: Newspaper Article 18 01 06 re Gaerwen.doc

Peter

We have very little information to hand on the case regarding Gaerwen as it is so long ago. It appears that Mr Thomas was suspended in October 2005 following an audit – we have found a press article at the time that mentions the case – which is attached. It appears that the branch remained closed until January 2006 when it re-opened operated by a temporary subpostmaster.

Unfortunately we don't have any other information on this electronically as it appears that those records started after this case.

I could ask for a search to be carried out for any manual archived files but this would not meet your timescales and it may be that any files have been destroyed over this period of time.

On the position of the review that is mentioned in the MP's letter the situation is that it will be an independent review and the specific cases and the timescale for the review are still to be determined at this stage.

For info, the reactive position from POL at the time of the review being agreed was as follows; i

Post Office spokesman said: "The Post Office continues to have absolute confidence in the robustness and integrity of its branch accounting processes. Over the past ten years, many millions of branch reconciliations have been carried out with transactions and balances accurately recorded by more than 25,000 different subpostmasters. The Post Office has no hesitation in agreeing to an external review of these few individual cases that have been raised with us by a number of MPs."

This affects a very small number of individual cases and to put this into context, over the past ten years, many millions of branch reconciliations have been carried out with transactions and balances accurately recorded by more than 25,000 different subpostmasters. The Post Office continues to have absolute confidence in the robustness and integrity of its branch accounting processes. We are not independently reviewing our systems. We have agreed with MPs to commission an external review of a small number of individual cases and report back on these. We already have processes in place to ensure that systems and processes are fully audited and are robust.

Hope that helps

Regards

Martin Humphreys
Stakeholder Relations
Post Office Ltd
148 Old Street
London
EC1V 9HQ

GRO

From: Batten Peter (ShEx) [mailto:[REDACTED] **GRO**

Sent: 25 July 2012 17:09
To: Martin Humphreys
Cc: Mike Granville; Whitehead Mike (ShEx); Baugh James (ShEx)
Subject: RE: Albert Owen - JFSA

Hi Martin,

I'm afraid I'm chasing on another letter today. Our response to Albert Owen is due by the end of the week, I would be grateful for your advice by close of play tomorrow.

Kind regards

Peter

Peter Batten | Shareholder Executive | Department for Business, Innovation & Skills |
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From: Batten Peter (ShEx)
Sent: 16 July 2012 17:13
To: 'Martin Humphreys'
Cc: Mike Granville; Whitehead Mike (ShEx); Baugh James (ShEx)
Subject: Albert Owen - JFSA

Dear Martin

Grateful for advice relating to any history of accounting irregularities at what I assume is Gaerwen Post Office (?) and more widely about recent progress regarding the forensic review of cases (i.e. how many, and when the review will be completed).

Many thanks

Peter

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Peter Batten | Shareholder Executive | Department for Business, Innovation & Skills |
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