

Post Office Group Litigation
Confidential and privileged information



Mohammad Sabir

Branches: Cottingley Post Office® Branch, 4 The Parade, Cottingley, BD16 1RP
Crossflatts Post Office® Branch, 33A Keighley Road, Bingley

Dates of service: 9 September 2006 to 2 October 2009 (Cottingley)
11 October 2006 to 2 October 2009 (Crossflatts)

Loss claimed: At least £95,000 for (wrongly) repaid shortfalls and loss of investment/ earnings

Contract model: Standard Subpostmasters Contract 1994

Background:

Mr Sabir became Subpostmaster of Cottingley on 9 September 2006 and Crossflatts on 11 October 2006. Mr Sabir claims that from 2008 he experienced discrepancies in the accounts for Cottingley which created an apparent surplus when a Lottery scratchcard was sold. An audit of Cottingley conducted by Post Office branch on 10 August 2009 revealed a shortfall of £4,878.36 which primarily related to scratchcards. The number of lottery scratch cards recorded as being in stock was greater than the number of actual stock. Due to the shortfall at Cottingley, an audit of Crossflatts was carried out the following day, revealing a small (immaterial) surplus. Mr Sabir was suspended from both branches and, after an investigation, both his contracts were terminated.

Key allegations made:

Mr Sabir claims, in addition to the generic complaints made by all Claimants, that:

He requested further training on the Horizon system but Post Office told him they could not spare the resources. He alleges that the training he was provided with was inadequate.

From 2008 he claims that a surplus of cash was created when scratch cards were sold and that he removed this surplus and placed it in the branch safe. When the audit uncovered a shortfall he presented the cash immediately and wrote a cheque for the remaining outstanding amount. He therefore tries to claim that there was no real shortfall.

Reason for termination:

The shortfall of £4,878.36 discovered at audit on 10 August 2009 had been disguised by inflating the figure for declared Lottery scratchcards in the branch accounts.

At interview on 1 October 2009, Mr Sabir admitted that he had knowingly been overstating figures in his accounts to conceal losses.

Post Office summarily terminated Mr Sabir's contracts of both branches on 2 October 2009 due to 'falsification of the branch trading account by inflating the declared lottery scratch cards on hand figure and failure to make good of losses without delay'.