

File name: Janet SKINNER - Janet Louise Skinner Tape 4 Tape No.043367.mp3

Audio quality: Average

Moderator questions in Bold, Respondents in Regular text.

KEY: **Unable to decipher** = (inaudible + timecode), **Phonetic spelling** = (ph + timecode), **Missed word** = (mw + timecode), **Talking over each other** = (talking over each other + timecode).

(TC: 00:00:00)

Stephen Bradshaw: The time is 14:12. Resuming the interview with Janet Louise Skinner. Present is myself, Stephen Bradshaw.

(TC: 00:00:12)

Diane Matthews: Diane Matthews.

(TC: 00:00:14)

Janet Skinner: Janet Skinner.

(TC: 00:00:15)

Stephen Bradshaw: Okay. The date is still the 30th June 2006. Can you pass me that form back? Okay, I first wanted to remind you of your legal rights. Um, you're still under caution, which means you do not need to say anything but it may harm your defence if you do not mention when questioned something which you later rely on in court. Anything you do say may be given in evidence. Also, you are not under arrest, free to leave if you wish, and you, you do remain the right to legal representation and advice, including the right to speak with a solicitor, even in person or on the telephone, and, again, the Police and Criminal Evidence Act is all there for you to read if you so wish. Can you just sign and date the form, please. It's fourteen-, 14:13. Can you just sign the top line there, just to confirm you've been reminded of your legal rights? (inaudible 01.16) applies. Okay, and, again, whether you wish to speak with a solicitor or you don't wish to speak with a solicitor. If you don't want to speak with a solicitor at this time, you can change your mind at any time during the interview. Do you understand?

(TC: 00:01:41)

Janet Skinner: Yeah. (inaudible 01.44) oh, sorry. (inaudible 01.45) in there.

(TC: 00:01:50)

Stephen Bradshaw: Just before Diane carries on, can you just confirm-, I'm not sure whether

we've been on the tape with all the toing and froing from one place to another. Can you just confirm that between Diane leaving to, to try and get authority to use the, the police station for the interview and the interview starting at the police station, that this matter of the audit shortage at (inaudible 02.11) post office was not discussed?

(TC: 00:02:13)

Janet Skinner: No.

(TC: 00:02:14)

Stephen Bradshaw: Thank you.

(TC: 00:02:15)

Diane Matthews: And, again, it's not been discussed on the changeover of tapes either.

(TC: 00:02:19)

Janet Skinner: No.

(TC: 00:02:20)

Diane Matthews: Um-,

(TC: 00:02:22)

Janet Skinner: Right. During that, you said about-, sorry.

(TC: 00:02:26)

Stephen Bradshaw: (inaudible 02.25) a friend present?

(TC: 00:02:28)

Janet Skinner: No, I'm fine. Um, you said there was-, 'Was there still shortages?' and there was still shortages. There was still shortages in Katherine Air's (ph 02.34), stock in there.

(TC: 00:02:36)

Diane Matthews: When? When was that?

(TC: 00:02:37)

Janet Skinner: Um, December. That shortage was there all the time she was on sick.

(TC: 00:02:41)

Diane Matthews: Right. How much was it for? Was that the £1,400?

(TC: 00:02:45)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:02:46)

Diane Matthews: Right. Was that showing in your account?

(TC: 00:02:48)

Janet Skinner: Sorry?

(TC: 00:02:48)

Diane Matthews: Was that showing in your account?

(TC: 00:02:50)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:02:51)

Diane Matthews: Right. Because on this one, from November to December, the only shortage that we've got, again, of £178.

(TC: 00:02:59)

Janet Skinner: That was an error notice. That was sent back.

(TC: 00:03:02)

Diane Matthews: £178?

(TC: 00:03:03)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:03:04)

Diane Matthews: Although with no shortage declared?

(TC: 00:03:06)

Janet Skinner: Yes, I know because I didn't declare it.

(TC: 00:03:08)

Diane Matthews: So-,

(TC: 00:03:09)

Janet Skinner: Because she was paying it back. She kept paying it back at £10 a week, then she would-, you see, in the safe at work, there was a bag, a white bag, and it was a Lisa Halley (ph 03.19) bag and it's what we used to send the dockets off in.

(TC: 00:03:21)

Diane Matthews: Yeah.

(TC: 00:03:21)

Janet Skinner: And in that bag, it contained Katherine's pieces of paper with all the shortages on. Do you know-, what she had added up. When she paid it off, she put-, (inaudible 03.31) had the money in it. Now, that bag's gone. Now, I searched the office for that the other day and I cannot find that bag, and that had all the bits of paper in when she's been ticking off money, or where she'd been putting the money back into that bag, or when she'd been taking it back out the bag. Do you know what I mean? So, like, if her son walked up to the counter and said, um, err, um, 'Mum, can you lend me £20?' She was, like, giving him the twenty quid but what I didn't know was, she was knocking it off this piece of paper, because I found this bag the other day-, the other-, well, not the other day, a few weeks ago. I tried to find it the other day and I couldn't find it.

(TC: 00:04:08)

Diane Matthews: Right. So, the £1,400 lost that was in her stock-,

(TC: 00:04:15)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:04:14)

Diane Matthews: She accepted that she'd made, let's just say mistakes.

(TC: 00:04:19)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:04:20)

Diane Matthews: She'd accepted that the shortage, for one reason or another, was in her stock and she agreed to pay it back at £10whatever a week.

(TC: 00:04:29)
Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:04:30)
Diane Matthews: Right. That money was going into a Lisa Halley (ph 04.31) bag in the safe, along with some form of a record of what was paid back.

(TC: 00:04:38)
Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:04:39)
Diane Matthews: Right. That £1,400, when-, when did that actually-, when did she have that loss?

(TC: 00:04:44)
Janet Skinner: Um, not November this year, November of last year. Year before.

(TC: 00:04:50)
Diane Matthews: 2004?

(TC: 00:04:52)
Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:04:53)
Diane Matthews: Right. So, from November 2004, when you're on weekly cash accounts, have you shown that £1,400?

(TC: 00:05:01)
Janet Skinner: No.

(TC: 00:05:02)
Diane Matthews: Right. So, how-, what have you been doing with that £1,400 loss?

(TC: 00:05:07)

Janet Skinner: She was just adding it as if she had it there.

(TC: 00:05:10)

Diane Matthews: She was adding it?

(TC: 00:05:11)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:05:12)

Diane Matthews: Was that under your instructions to do that?

(TC: 00:05:14)

Janet Skinner: Well, I said to her she had to clear it and she said, 'Well, I ain't got it.' So, um, she said-, she said, 'Well, can I-, can I just add it on to my (mw 05.25)? I said, 'Yes, but it needs to be cleared.' I said, 'Because if I get an audit, it-, it's going to be my-, it's going to be me that gets into trouble, not you.' And then I was, um-, then she was balanced £495 short, um, but I showed that shortage because it seemed a lot, do you know, not to share. So, I shared-, I shared that.

(TC: 00:05:50)

Diane Matthews: Why-, why did £490-odd seem a lot not to share, but 1,400 wasn't?

(TC: 00:05:57)

Janet Skinner: Because she'd only been in for one day.

(TC: 00:06:00)

Diane Matthews: Who had?

(TC: 00:06:01)

Janet Skinner: Theresa.

(TC: 00:06:04)

Diane Matthews: But, you know, you only have to serve for ten minutes and you can make a mistake.

(TC: 00:06:07)

Janet Skinner: Well, it's just that they asked me to show it, you know, to show that shortage to see if an error notice came back for it.

(TC: 00:06:14)

Diane Matthews: Who asked you to show it?

(TC: 00:06:15)

Janet Skinner: Theresa did.

(TC: 00:06:17)

Diane Matthews: Right. What was different between that one and the £1,400?

(TC: 00:06:21)

Janet Skinner: Because that was a mistake that she'd made, um, like, over a couple of weeks.

(TC: 00:06:28)

Diane Matthews: Do you believe that was a mistake or do you believe it was a loan of money?

(TC: 00:06:33)

Janet Skinner: I-, I don't believe it was a mistake.

(TC: 00:06:36)

Diane Matthews: So, you think she'd loaned some money?

(TC: 00:06:39)

Janet Skinner: Yes, because she too easy (ph 06.40) to take the £10 here and put the £10 back.

(TC: 00:06:42)

Diane Matthews: Right. Did you ask her whether she'd taken the money?

(TC: 00:06:45)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:06:46)

Diane Matthews: And what did she say?

(TC: 00:06:47)

Janet Skinner: 'I'm not that kind of person,' and just cried.

(TC: 00:06:50)

Diane Matthews: Right. So, did you give her any authority to borrow £1,400?

(TC: 00:06:54)

Janet Skinner: No.

(TC: 00:06:54)

Diane Matthews: Right. But if this is going back to November 2004, er, as you've indicated with the seven and a half from January, you said on that you spread that, um, over your tens and twenties.

(TC: 00:07:09)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:07:10)

Diane Matthews: Right and, um, to cover the loss, not to show it in your accounts. Um, and here we've got a £1,400 one that is being covered up in the same way. Is that correct?

(TC: 00:07:21)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:07:21)

Diane Matthews: Right. Now, if-, if that's been covered up by Katherine Airs (ph 07.25), was she working under your instructions to do that until she pays-, until there's £1,400 in that Lisa Halley bag to put it back in?

(TC: 00:07:33)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:07:35)

Janet Skinner: Right. Did you know that was wrong?

(TC: 00:07:37)

Janet Skinner: Yes, I did.

(TC: 00:07:39)

Janet Skinner: You knew obviously falsifying an accounting document, like Steve said earlier, is a criminal offence.

(TC: 00:07:45)

Janet Skinner: Well, no, I didn't know that.

(TC: 00:07:47)

Diane Matthews: And, I mean, we've already discussed obviously the reason for the balance and how you have to deal with your losses and gains.

(TC: 00:07:54)

Janet Skinner: Yes, I know.

(TC: 00:07:56)

Diane Matthews: And-,

(TC: 00:07:55)

Janet Skinner: But she was expecting me to just pay that back.

(TC: 00:07:58)

Diane Matthews: But if you couldn't pay it back then they do have procedures in place for you to obviously contact somebody. Did you contact somebody over the 1,400?

(TC: 00:08:09)

Janet Skinner: No. It's the same (inaudible 08.11) had, I had the same problems there. I mean, um, one week it was £800, um, another week it was £900, and the girl that-, whose stock unit was actually short, actually left. I went in, balanced her stock unit. Her stock unit was £275 short, and I said 'It needs to be put right,' and she was like, 'I ain't got any money. I can't do that,' and she left on that-, on that Saturday. So, I had to rectify that. I had to cover it with a cheque and put it back, and then when-, after I'd closed that office and left, that girl went back into that office-, not into the post office, but into the shop, cashed a scratch card for £150 and left.

(TC: 00:08:57)

Diane Matthews: Right. Let's just go to this, um, £1,400. When did Katherine Airs go **GRO**?

(TC: 00:09:10)

Janet Skinner: In, um, June of last year.

(TC: 00:09:15)

Diane Matthews: Right. So, from November 04 to June 05, this £1,400-,

(TC: 00:09:24)

Janet Skinner: Was still outstanding.

(TC: 00:09:25)

Diane Matthews: Was still being added?

(TC: 00:09:26)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:09:27)

Diane Matthews: Right. When she went off **GRO** in June, is she-, is she paid when she's off **GRO**?

(TC: 00:09:32)

Janet Skinner: Yes, she was paid **GRO**.

(TC: 00:09:34)

Diane Matthews: So, not full pay. Is she full time?

(TC: 00:09:37)

Janet Skinner: Um, well, at that time she was doing 31 hours. Now, she's only doing um, 25, 26, I think.

(TC: 00:09:46)

Diane Matthews: Right. So, in 30 odd hours, how much would she earn?

(TC: 00:09:49)

Janet Skinner: Um, 131.

(TC: 00:09:53)

Diane Matthews: Right. So, when she was off [GRO] was any money being added to the Lisa Halley bag?

(TC: 00:09:57)

Janet Skinner: No.

(TC: 00:09:58)

Diane Matthews: Right, and-,

(TC: 00:09:59)

Janet Skinner: She didn't come near the office.

(TC: 00:10:00)

Diane Matthews: (TC 00:10:00) Right, okay. [GRO] ?

(TC: 00:10:04)

Janet Skinner: [GRO]
[GRO]

(TC: 00:10:11)

Diane Matthews: Right. (inaudible 10.13).

(TC: 00:10:14)

Stephen Bradshaw: Yeah. So, this Lisa Halley bag, where the money was coming in with ten and £20s at a time, what happened to them ten and £20s?

(TC: 00:10:22)

Janet Skinner: She-, it was kept in that bag.

(TC: 00:10:24)

Stephen Bradshaw: Right. So, in November '04, you'd had this loss of £1,400s.

(TC: 00:10:28)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:10:28)

Stephen Bradshaw: Since November '04, you've inflated the cash?

(TC: 00:10:32)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:10:33)

Stephen Bradshaw: To cover that loss.

(TC: 00:10:35)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:10:36)

Stephen Bradshaw: Katherine's paying back £10 or £20 a week here and there. So, we've got this bag of money in the safe with so much money in.

(TC: 00:10:45)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:10:46)

Stephen Bradshaw: Right. Did she pay back every week?

(TC: 00:10:48)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:10:51)

Stephen Bradshaw: Right.

(TC: 00:10:52)

Janet Skinner: But then-, but then sometimes she took it back, because it's where she kept her stock. It was her-, her cash at that time that was inflated.

(TC: 00:10:59)

Stephen Bradshaw: Yes, but either way, she's paying it back, isn't she? You've got this Lisa Halley bag with the money in, she's paying it back. I understand it's all within her-, why is it within her cash? Because you weren't on individual stock units in November '04.

(TC: 00:11:15)
Janet Skinner: I was.

(TC: 00:11:17)
Stephen Bradshaw: No, you said-,

(TC: 00:11:19)
Janet Skinner: I was on an individual stock unit then.

(TC: 00:11:21)
Stephen Bradshaw: No. She went sick in June '05.

(TC: 00:11:23)
Janet Skinner: Last year.

(TC: 00:11:24)
Stephen Bradshaw: Yes, that's '05. November is six months, seven months previous.

(TC: 00:11:28)
Janet Skinner: Yes, I was on individual stock units then.

(TC: 00:11:30)
Stephen Bradshaw: And you said she'd only been on individual stock units for about three weeks before she went- GRO **That was one of the first questions you were asked about individual stock units, because you-,**

(TC: 00:11:39)
Janet Skinner: No.

(TC: 00:11:40)
Stephen Bradshaw: Yeah. Because you-, you thought she was (inaudible 11.43) and because she paid people out and you went on individual stock units.

(TC: 00:11:47)

Janet Skinner: No. You've misheard what I've said. I said the reason why-,

(TC: 00:11:52)

Stephen Bradshaw: Okay, let's-, let's just clear it up. When you took over in November '04-,

(TC: 00:11:57)

Janet Skinner: No.

(TC: 00:11:58)

Stephen Bradshaw: Sorry, um-,

(TC: 00:11:58)

Janet Skinner: In May.

(TC: 00:11:59)

Stephen Bradshaw: In May. May '04. You took over in May '04-,

(TC: 00:12:04)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:12:05)

Stephen Bradshaw: But you weren't on individual stock units?

(TC: 00:12:06)

Janet Skinner: No. We were on a stock unit.

(TC: 00:12:09)

Stephen Bradshaw: Right. So, you had one stock unit?

(TC: 00:12:09)

Janet Skinner: But then later in the year, we went onto individual stock units.

(TC: 00:12:13)

Stephen Bradshaw: Right. So, in November-,

(TC: 00:12:15)

Janet Skinner: We was already on individual stock units.

(TC: 00:12:18)

Stephen Bradshaw: Right. What did you go on individual stock units for?

(TC: 00:12:20)

Janet Skinner: Because I'd gone-, I was-, I was off and it would probably have been about the-, August, September time, and, um, Colleen was balancing and we were £700 and something short. So, she rang me up, she'd been there ages, um, I went in to see what it was, and it actually worked out that she'd, um, not rimmed (ph 12.42) in the change. To-, you scan the sheet, she'd not rimmed it. All she'd not done is rimmed it in. Do you know, so it-, well, no, that (inaudible 12.52) anyway. But it was something to do with the change anyway, what she hadn't rimmed in. When I got there, she said, 'I can't find this £700 and odd,' so we checked it-, her and I both checked it and it was there. It was just a miscount.

(TC: 00:13:07)

Stephen Bradshaw: Do you mean an error?

(TC: 00:13:08)

Janet Skinner: Yes, it was just a genuine error. So, the next day, Colleen said to me-, she said, 'Look-, she said-, and like, I think we was down-, we were probably still down about £100 and something. So, she said to me, 'It's got to-, well, why don't we just put them on individual stock units and then that way, we know where the mistakes have been made.'

(TC: 00:13:27)

Stephen Bradshaw: Okay, so it started some time the middle of '04 then?

(TC: 00:13:31)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:13:32)

Stephen Bradshaw: Okay. So, we go in there. So, then we come to November '04-,

(TC: 00:13:36)

Janet Skinner: But she weren't on an individual stock unit for three weeks

GRO

(TC: 00:13:43)

Stephen Bradshaw: Yeah. No, (inaudible 13.43) June, but never mind, we've sorted that out now. You started then, and then in November '04, she had a loss of £1,400?

(TC: 00:13:52)

Janet Skinner: Yeah. Between-, it was between November and December.

(TC: 00:13:56)

Stephen Bradshaw: Okay, yeah, within that period. So, the loss of £1,400s. She said she couldn't pay it back all in one go, she was paying back so much each week, ten and £20s-,

(TC: 00:14:07)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:14:07)

Stephen Bradshaw: She was inflating the cash on your instructions to cover the shortage.

(TC: 00:14:15)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:14:16)

Stephen Bradshaw: This £10 and £20 was going in the bag. She went sick in June. We've got one right. Seven months later, which is 28 weeks. So, we're going to allow for (inaudible 14.26), say you stole £200. What happened to that £200 that she'd been-, that she paid back?

(TC: 00:14:33)

Janet Skinner: Well, there was nothing in the bag.

(TC: 00:14:37)

Stephen Bradshaw: So-, see, what I just can't work out is, you've got somebody paying-,

(TC: 00:14:41)

Janet Skinner: She was taking-,

(TC: 00:14:43)

Stephen Bradshaw: She-, she's got-, you've got somebody paying money back to you, because you're responsible. At the end of the day, it's your cash out of your pocket that should have made

that loss good. Right? She's paying you back £10 a week, £20 a week-,

(TC: 00:14:58)

Janet Skinner: But she was paying it back to herself.

(TC: 00:14:59)

Stephen Bradshaw: But, you know, what sort of office are you running? 'Go and rob money off me, and then pay it back yourself,' and then she just walks out with your money. So, we've got-, so you never-, she never paid you a penny back, did she?

(TC: 00:15:12)

Janet Skinner: No.

(TC: 00:15:13)

Stephen Bradshaw: Right. So, you've got £1,400 and that's in November '05.

(TC: 00:15:17)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:15:18)

Stephen Bradshaw: Right. You've got-, sorry, November '04, we've got £1,400 that hasn't been paid back. When did you make that good?

(TC: 00:15:27)

Janet Skinner: It hasn't.

(TC: 00:15:29)

Stephen Bradshaw: Right. So, it hasn't, has it?

(TC: 00:15:30)

Janet Skinner: No.

(TC: 00:15:31)

Stephen Bradshaw: Right. So, between November '04 and all of-, and say June '05, how long was she off? GRO?

(TC: 00:15:38)

Janet Skinner: Um, she came back-, she came back Christmas week.

GRO

GRO

(TC: 00:15:46)

Stephen Bradshaw: Okay.

(TC: 00:15:46)

Janet Skinner: Sort of, six months.

(TC: 00:15:49)

Stephen Bradshaw:

GRO

(TC: 00:15:55)

Janet Skinner: There wasn't anything I could do.

GRO

(TC: 00:15:58)

Stephen Bradshaw: I think there is,

GRO

(TC: 00:16:02)

Janet Skinner: She was-,

(TC: 00:16:04)

Stephen Bradshaw: But that's by the by. That's your choice. You're the employer.

(TC: 00:16:06)

Janet Skinner: I did-, I checked into that.

(TC: 00:16:08)

Stephen Bradshaw: Yeah. Okay, well, you're their employer and-, I personally, (mw 16.12) in my opinion, I find it that people

GRO

it's just a

little bit too long (inaudible 16.17).

(TC: 00:16:19)

Janet Skinner: Oh, it's like me

GRO

(TC: 00:16:23)

Stephen Bradshaw: Yeah.

(TC: 00:16:23)

Janet Skinner: They had to cover me for insurance.

(TC: 00:16:26)

Stephen Bradshaw: That's alright, but that's not the reason why we're here. So, November '04, we've got £1,400s.

(TC: 00:16:31)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:16:32)

Stephen Bradshaw: What losses occurred between November '04 and June '05 when she went off?

(TC: 00:16:37)

Janet Skinner: Um, not a-, not a great deal.

(TC: 00:16:40)

Stephen Bradshaw: Right. So, she had £1,400 and then nothing done between that time?

(TC: 00:16:45)

Janet Skinner: No.

(TC: 00:16:46)

Stephen Bradshaw: You sure about that?

(TC: 00:16:47)

Janet Skinner: Positive.

(TC: 00:16:49)

Stephen Bradshaw: Right.

(TC: 00:16:49)

Janet Skinner: Like-, like, there was just, sort of, like, they balance themselves out up and down.

(TC: 00:16:55)

Stephen Bradshaw: But nothing major?

(TC: 00:16:55)

Janet Skinner: No.

(TC: 00:16:56)

Stephen Bradshaw: Right. So, there's £1,400, November '04. From November '04 to June '05, it's okay. June '05 to December '05, what were the balances like?

(TC: 00:17:12)

Janet Skinner: Not too bad.

(TC: 00:17:15)

Stephen Bradshaw: Not too bad? Because the person you distrusted was off, so it was all okay then. Then between December '05 and May '06, we have a discrepancy of, give or take a little bit, £59,000.

(TC: 00:17:32)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:17:34)

Stephen Bradshaw: Right. £1,400. Each and every account since November '04, until you found your first loss of January '05, is covered, isn't it? That's been inflated.

(TC: 00:17:47)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:17:48)

Stephen Bradshaw: So, for over twelve months, you've inflated your cash and falsified documents.

(TC: 00:17:52)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:17:53)

Stephen Bradshaw: Right. So, the £7,500, it wasn't £7,500 going missing in January, was it?

(TC: 00:17:58)

Janet Skinner: No.

(TC: 00:17:59)

Stephen Bradshaw: Because you've already had £1,400 and whatever other ones you haven't bothered telling us about. Then you've had a loss between November '04 and January '06, isn't it?

(TC: 00:18:09)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:18:10)

Stephen Bradshaw: Right. I don't think you've made any losses good.

(TC: 00:18:13)

Janet Skinner: I-, yeah, I have.

(TC: 00:18:16)

Stephen Bradshaw: Only if it's £2 or a £5.

(TC: 00:18:18)

Janet Skinner: No, if I've-, if my losses have been bad in the AA stock unit, I have rectified them losses.

(TC: 00:18:23)

Stephen Bradshaw: When was the last time you made a loss good?

(TC: 00:18:25)

Janet Skinner: Um, I don't know. The last time, I sent a cheque.

(TC: 00:18:30)

Stephen Bradshaw: When was that?

(TC: 00:18:31)

Janet Skinner: I paid that-, I paid by cheque (inaudible 18.32).

(TC: 00:18:33)

Stephen Bradshaw: Okay, and when was the last time you did a cheque?

(TC: 00:18:34)

Janet Skinner: I don't know.

(TC: 00:18:34)

Stephen Bradshaw: How much was it for?

(TC: 00:18:35)

Janet Skinner: I can't remember.

(TC: 00:18:36)

Stephen Bradshaw: Was it during the last year?

(TC: 00:18:37)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:18:39)

Stephen Bradshaw: When?

(TC: 00:18:39)

Janet Skinner: I don't know. I can't remember.

(TC: 00:18:41)

Stephen Bradshaw: Well, you can remember £1,400, you can remember £7,500, but when I say, 'Can you make good this loss?'

(TC: 00:18:47)

Janet Skinner: Yes, I can remember 1,400 because it's been lost.

(TC: 00:18:48)

Stephen Bradshaw: Did you declare-, did you declare the loss?

(TC: 00:18:50)
Janet Skinner: Sorry?

(TC: 00:18:51)
Stephen Bradshaw: Did you declare the loss?

(TC: 00:18:52)
Janet Skinner: Declare which loss?

(TC: 00:18:53)
Stephen Bradshaw: Well, you have to show your shortage anyway, don't you, when you do a balance?

(TC: 00:18:56)
Janet Skinner: Yes, I know. Yeah.

(TC: 00:18:57)
Stephen Bradshaw: Did you show it?

(TC: 00:18:57)
Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:18:59)
Stephen Bradshaw: Again, going back to the cheque, it couldn't have been for a large amount because you would have remembered, wouldn't you?

(TC: 00:19:05)
Janet Skinner: It was the £189 one.

(TC: 00:19:07)
Stephen Bradshaw: Oh, so you can remember. £189. When?

(TC: 00:19:10)
Janet Skinner: Um, well, it was actually-, I never noticed-, that, kind of, kept coming backwards and

forward, in my favour and against my favour, and it wasn't-, shouldn't have been something that was in my favour.

(TC: 00:19:20)

Stephen Bradshaw: So, it's actually something slightly different, isn't it? Because it's an error notice that's come in, rather than you making good a shortage that we have to balance.

(TC: 00:19:29)

Janet Skinner: Yes, but I don't-, I did make my shortages good.

(TC: 00:19:32)

Stephen Bradshaw: Well, you haven't. We've got-, by your own admission, you have not made your shortages good because £1,400 has been outstanding since November '04.

(TC: 00:19:41)

Janet Skinner: Yes, but it wasn't my outstanding-, it wasn't my outstanding shortage.

(TC: 00:19:44)

Stephen Bradshaw: Sorry, who's the postmistress?

(TC: 00:19:45)

Janet Skinner: Yes, I know, and that's what-,

(TC: 00:19:47)

Stephen Bradshaw: Who's responsible for making the losses good?

(TC: 00:19:49)

Janet Skinner: Do you know, that's what-, that's s-, the only thing I-, I am bothered about, like, is the fact that you can investigate me as much as you want. I really don't care. I've got nothing to hide. You can search my house, you can rip it apart, (TC 00:20:00) you can do what you like. You can see in my bank accounts for the last five years. I really have nothing to hide whatsoever. The only thing that bothers me is the fact that somebody is going to be held responsible for that and I know that someone's going to be me.

(TC: 00:20:12)

Diane Matthews: And why is it going to be you?

(TC: 00:20:13)

Janet Skinner: Because it should have been my responsibility and it should have been something that I've dealt with in the beginning, and I know that, and I've had-, I've got that going through my head every-, every day, and if I could answer for that amount of money I would answer. If you want to see how much I've-, I've never-, I never pay money into my bank. The only things that ever goes through my bank is money that they pay to me and that is it, and I can prove that, and then I know that I can prove the fact that I haven't stolen any money. I have face (ph 20.46)

(TC: 00:20:46)

Stephen Bradshaw: How do we know you haven't stolen the money?

(TC: 00:20:48)

Janet Skinner: Because I-, I know I haven't. I can sleep at night knowing I haven't.

(TC: 00:20:51)

Stephen Bradshaw: We've got £59,000 short in your accounts. You've offered no explanation of where that money's gone-,

(TC: 00:20:58)

Janet Skinner: Because I can't explain it.

(TC: 00:20:59)

Stephen Bradshaw: You've got a £1,400 loss, everything's hunky dory for almost twelve months-,

(TC: 00:21:02)

Janet Skinner: No, it isn't hunky dory though, is it?

(TC: 00:21:04)

Stephen Bradshaw: Well, it has been.

(TC: 00:21:04)

Janet Skinner: Yes, but I couldn't force the woman to pay the money that she didn't have, because that's all it is. I couldn't force her. She didn't have the money. All she kept saying, she didn't have the money. Now, I said to her-,

(TC: 00:21:16)

Stephen Bradshaw: (inaudible 21.16) by giving her the keys to come into the office.

(TC: 00:21:18)

Janet Skinner: I haven't. Yes, I know, only because the-, the customers was complaining at the fact that I was arriving at work late.

(TC: 00:21:25)

Stephen Bradshaw: Get up earlier. Your responsibility.

(TC: 00:21:28)

Janet Skinner: Yes, I know.

(TC: 00:21:28)

Stephen Bradshaw: You took the role. You took the role of being a postmaster. Right. What we'll do, Diane will go through it all now, because we've only got £9,500. We've still got another 50 to find.

(TC: 00:21:39)

Janet Skinner: Well, that's just went missing through the, um-, I mean, I can't explain it any other way. I mean, you can break it down into pounds, pennies and whatever you want, but I cannot explain it. If I had an answer, I wouldn't be sat here.

(TC: 00:21:53)

Diane Matthews: Right. Let me-, let me just-, we're going to have to start off with 7,500 and see how we get to 59, because we need to know-,

(TC: 00:22:04)

Janet Skinner: I don't know how we've got to 59. I don't know how it's got to 59.

(TC: 00:22:07)

Diane Matthews: So, you're saying it went up to 9,500 after-,

(TC: 00:22:09)

Janet Skinner: It just kept going up.

(TC: 00:22:10)

Diane Matthews: And that was-, you were in bench (ph 22.14) trading and you say you only

declare your cash once a month?

(TC: 00:22:17)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:22:18)

Diane Matthews: So, if that's January, £7,500, and February, £9,500, what was March?

(TC: 00:22:23)

Janet Skinner: It just kept going up.

(TC: 00:22:26)

Diane Matthews: Right. I mean, because we've-, like Steve said, it's 50 grand, March, April, May, in three cash accounts. £50,000. So, it's, you know, 18 grand a month.

(TC: 00:22:37)

Janet Skinner: It just-,

(TC: 00:22:39)

Diane Matthews: When you realised these figures were getting out of control, what did you do?

(TC: 00:22:46)

Janet Skinner: Start throwing up. I just felt physically sick.

(TC: 00:22:50)

Diane Matthews: But what did you do in terms of trying to-,

(TC: 00:22:54)

Janet Skinner: Nothing.

(TC: 00:22:54)

Diane Matthews: Because-,

(TC: 00:22:56)

Janet Skinner: I know I'm going to-, look, I know that I am-, I have to take responsibility, but the only

thing that I will-, I will take responsibility for my own negligence for not doing anything about it, but I will not take responsibility-,

(TC: 00:23:11)

Diane Matthews: Right. It's like we explained. We're here to find the truth. We're here to find the facts of what's gone on at an office that has lost nearly 60 grand in five month. It's an awful lot of money.

(TC: 00:23:26)

Janet Skinner: It's a friggin' hell of a lot of money.

(TC: 00:23:27)

Diane Matthews: Right, and that's what we're-, we're after finding out. Now, we're asking you the question of have you stolen the 60,000?

(TC: 00:23:33)

Janet Skinner: No.

(TC: 00:23:34)

Diane Matthews: Right. What's happened to it?

(TC: 00:23:35)

Janet Skinner: If I had an answer, I would tell you.

(TC: 00:23:37)

Diane Matthews: Why do you think it's Katherine Airs? Do you think Katherine Airs has taken 60 grand? If you've not taken it, somebody has. I think-, would you agree with that? Somebody's taken 60 grand.

(TC: 00:23:49)

Janet Skinner: Yeah. I'm not-, it's-, somebody has taken the money, right? The money does not-, and I tell you how I feel. I feel as if I've been putting the money in the safe and somebody's been taking it out the back. That's how I feel.

(TC: 00:24:01)

Diane Matthews: What have you done to stop that happening?

(TC: 00:24:03)

Janet Skinner: Nothing.

(TC: 00:24:04)

Diane Matthews: Right. So, would you agree that it's your responsibility for the money going? Although you've not stolen it, you've done nothing to stop it either, and the person you deem responsible you've given keys to. They've got the run of the office. There's nothing from stopping them coming in, taking twenty grand and going back home and putting it in their house. **GRO**

GRO

(TC: 00:24:24)

Janet Skinner: It's like (inaudible 24.25) everybody says you don't trust anybody.

(TC: 00:24:28)

Diane Matthews: You shouldn't, though. Exactly. Especially somebody that you know **GRO**
GRO (ph 24.31).

(TC: 00:24:32)

Janet Skinner: The only two people that I do trust that I did work with is Theresa Holmes and Colin Kerrs, and it's purely because I took them from two of the offices. They've worked with me-, we've worked together before.

(TC: 00:24:45)

Diane Matthews: Why didn't you let them have the keys then?

(TC: 00:24:46)

Janet Skinner: Because Colin was **GRO**

(TC: 00:24:47)

Diane Matthews: And what about the other girl?

(TC: 00:24:49)

Janet Skinner: Theresa didn't work at the hours to-, for opening. She only worked sixteen hours.

(TC: 00:24:54)

Diane Matthews: Because if it was me-, if this was my office and I'm seeing money walk out of that safe, and you haven't got a clue. You-, in my mind, I know I've not taken it so there's got to be-,

money just doesn't disappear. There's got to be-, the first thing I'd do is take the keys off her.

(TC: 00:25:06)

Janet Skinner: This is why I wouldn't mind coming here, because of the fact-, or coming here without anybody with me, I'd come here without a solicitor, because I know that I physically did not take that money. This is why I don't mind being here, because I know that I didn't. I know that-, I know that I am not a thief.

(TC: 00:25:25)

Diane Matthews: But where is it?

(TC: 00:25:27)

Janet Skinner: I really don't know.

(TC: 00:25:28)

Diane Matthews: Because who do you think is now responsible for paying that back?

(TC: 00:25:31)

Janet Skinner: (inaudible 25.31) it's going to be me, isn't it? It's going to be me who's responsible for it, but I have to prove the fact that I haven't got that money.

(TC: 00:25:38)

Diane Matthews: But what evidence have you got to say Katherine's had it?

(TC: 00:25:41)

Janet Skinner: I haven't. I haven't got any evidence for anybody.

(TC: 00:25:44)

Diane Matthews: I mean, is she-, what-, has Katherine spent an awful lot of money lately?

(TC: 00:25:50)

Janet Skinner: I don't know [GRO] But the only thing that she did say to me in December when she came back was that she needed to earn over £100 a week because she had no money, um, because of the fact that she'd [GRO] Now, um, four weeks ago, she came in and gave me £500 to take off her £1,400 shortage.

(TC: 00:26:09)

Diane Matthews: And where's that?

(TC: 00:26:11)

Janet Skinner: I put it back into the cash.

(TC: 00:26:12)

Diane Matthews: So, that's been put back in the cash?

(TC: 00:26:13)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:26:16)

Diane Matthews: Right. This bag of money, where has it gone?

(TC: 00:26:19)

Janet Skinner: I ain't got a clue. I have ransacked the office. Um, I've searched them safes completely and that bag-, it was a white Lisa Halley bag-,

(TC: 00:26:28)

Stephen Bradshaw: Okay, if we just go back a little bit. All right, you've got your staff in, you've opened the post office and everybody's working away.

(TC: 00:26:36)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:26:35)

Stephen Bradshaw: When they were on individual stocks, how did they get the money?

(TC: 00:26:40)

Janet Skinner: I transferred it in and out.

(TC: 00:26:42)

Stephen Bradshaw: So, you transferred the money in and out, so you kept control of the cash at the time in individual stocks?

(TC: 00:26:46)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:26:47)

Stephen Bradshaw: You now go into one stock unit, the shared stock unit. What about the money?

(TC: 00:26:53)

Janet Skinner: It's just in the safe. If they need it, they get it.

(TC: 00:26:56)

Stephen Bradshaw: So, why are you changing all your procedures?

(TC: 00:26:59)

Janet Skinner: Because I was short staffed-, when Katherine went GRO right, and Theresa was on holiday, I basically worked that office on my own. Literally on my own. So, I thought, I had to take on somebody else but couldn't train them to put them on an individual stock unit.

(TC: 00:27:23)

Stephen Bradshaw: Right. I appreciate that you're short staffed and that. What I fail to understand is, whether you're short staffed or not, and you're saying about training individuals to put on a shared stock unit-, on an individual stock unit, at the end of the day, whether they're on individual stock units or a shared stock unit, the person, trained or untrained, is sitting serving customers from exactly the same makeup and (inaudible 27.51) terminal with all the kit, and the drawer full of money and a book with stuff in, whether it be shared or individually. What you're doing-, if you've got ten sheets of first class stamps, you divide it between the two clerks and they have five each. Why does being short staffed make it that you-, the controls go out the window? Before (mw 28.11), you're transferring cash in and out, there's an audit trail for it-,

(TC: 00:28:14)

Janet Skinner: Because it's customer-, it's customer pressure, isn't it?

(TC: 00:28:16)

Stephen Bradshaw: Is it?

(TC: 00:28:18)

Janet Skinner: Yeah. It's customer pressure.

(TC: 00:28:18)

Stephen Bradshaw: Why?

(TC: 00:28:19)

Janet Skinner: How often do you sit behind a counter? All you do is you get verbal abuse permanently all the time. It's not the easiest of things. It's-, basically, you're there to try and provide the best service for that customer, but when you've got them hurling abuse at you all the time, it doesn't-, it doesn't make it easy. So, you just don't have the time. So, yeah, you can't tell me that you'd walk into every single post office and they're run by the book as they're supposed to, because I know they don't. I've worked in that many.

(TC: 00:28:48)

Diane Matthews: I agree they don't, but they don't all have £60,000 losses.

(TC: 00:28:54)

Janet Skinner: No, I know they don't. Ever.

(TC: 00:28:56)

Stephen Bradshaw: But again-, again, the control. So, you've got customers, you know, (mw 29.03) abuse or they scream at you. Before-, before you set up, as anybody does in business, you have to make sure that you're there on time to open up, get your stuff out, and then people have enough cash to serve the people. When you run out of cash, somebody leaves and you say to the customer, 'I won't be long. I'm just going for some more cash,' and you walk away. The customer's not going to hurl abuse. You're only walking to the back to get money transferred out, either signed out in a book or transferred via the system. You changed the system completely and then suddenly lost £60,000, so how do we know you haven't stolen the money?

(TC: 00:29:44)

Janet Skinner: You don't.

(TC: 00:29:46)

Stephen Bradshaw: See, you keep saying it's Katherine, but we can't-,

(TC: 00:29:48)

Janet Skinner: I ain't saying-, I ain't just saying, 'Oh, it's Katherine.' Do you know, I mean, it's like, we all work there anyway. I mean, I don't know. I'm just saying that she might have taken the money, (TC 00:30:00) and I haven't. All I am-, all I am sure of is the fact that I know I haven't.

(TC: 00:30:05)

Stephen Bradshaw: Well, if we speak to Katherine, she might say you might have taken the money, and Theresa might say Colleen might have taken the money, and Colleen might say Theresa might have taken the money.

(TC: 00:30:14)

Janet Skinner: They might do. I don't know.

(TC: 00:30:14)

Stephen Bradshaw: Have you got something against Katherine?

(TC: 00:30:17)

Janet Skinner: No.

(TC: 00:30:18)

Stephen Bradshaw: Because it's her name obviously that's kept repeating about all the time.

(TC: 00:30:23)

Janet Skinner: Because I said-, no, it's s-, it's because of the fact that it's always been mistakes that she's made.

(TC: 00:30:27)

Stephen Bradshaw: Okay. So, when you are sitting there working, you say-, so, they just get up themselves to go out and take the money from the safe?

(TC: 00:30:35)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:30:35)

Stephen Bradshaw: Was the safe always open?

(TC: 00:30:36)

Janet Skinner: No, not always.

(TC: 00:30:37)

Stephen Bradshaw: Right. So, how would they get money if the safe wasn't open?

(TC: 00:30:40)

Janet Skinner: Just put the key in and turn it, and set it and lock it.

(TC: 00:30:43)

Stephen Bradshaw: And where were you then?

(TC: 00:30:45)

Janet Skinner: Well, it depends on whether I was there or not. I only worked half day Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and then I was off Friday and Saturday.

(TC: 00:30:53)

Stephen Bradshaw: So, you really didn't work very much at the post office, did you? You basically were a part-time postmistress, weren't you?

(TC: 00:31:02)

Janet Skinner: Well, no, I can't-, you can't really say that.

(TC: 00:31:04)

Stephen Bradshaw: Well, half day Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, off Friday and Saturday?

(TC: 00:31:08)

Janet Skinner: Yeah. Pay somebody else to work it for you.

(TC: 00:31:11)

Stephen Bradshaw: But you-, you pay somebody else to work it for you, all you're doing is paying a clerk. Have you paid an officer in charge?

(TC: 00:31:17)

Janet Skinner: No.

(TC: 00:31:19)

Stephen Bradshaw: You haven't. You employ clerks to sit there and serve the customers, and basically do what they want behind. So, you've got no control whatsoever within that post office. You don't know what goes on. So, for all this about, 'It's Katherine because I don't-, ' you're hardly there.

(TC: 00:31:32)
Janet Skinner: No.

(TC: 00:31:34)
Stephen Bradshaw: You turned up late, by your own admission.

(TC: 00:31:35)
Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:31:36)
Stephen Bradshaw: And you went home early, did half a day. You didn't do a full day, did you?

(TC: 00:31:41)
Janet Skinner: No.

(TC: 00:31:42)
Stephen Bradshaw: What time did you used to leave?

(TC: 00:31:42)
Janet Skinner: Two.

(TC: 00:31:44)
Stephen Bradshaw: Two?

(TC: 00:31:44)
Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:31:45)
Stephen Bradshaw: You hardly were there, were you?

(TC: 00:31:47)
Janet Skinner: No.

(TC: 00:31:48)

Diane Matthews: Who did the (mw 31.51) each night?

(TC: 00:31:53)

Janet Skinner: We don't do (mw 31.54).

(TC: 00:31:55)

Diane Matthews: You don't declare your overnight cash each night?

(TC: 00:31:57)

Janet Skinner: No.

(TC: 00:31:58)

Diane Matthews: Right. Um, when Diane Halls went into the office and she spoke to you with Julia, she said there was some sort of disturbance in your office with a member of staff. You went to speak-, she went to speak to you and you had to go out to speak-,

(TC: 00:32:25)

Janet Skinner: No. No, it wasn't-,

(TC: 00:32:26)

Diane Matthews: What happened then?

(TC: 00:32:28)

Janet Skinner: It's s-, it's not a member of staff, it's somebody who works within the shop.

(TC: 00:32:31)

Diane Matthews: And what was her problem?

(TC: 00:32:34)

Janet Skinner: Because I shut the door while I was talking to Diane and Julia. Um, I closed the door, which is the shop door, our door, and she barged in, pushed the door open and said, 'I need this door leaving open for stock.'

(TC: 00:32:50)

Diane Matthews: Right. So, it was an issue with the shop?

(TC: 00:32:52)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:32:53)

Diane Matthews: Right. When did you notice this bag of money missing?

(TC: 00:32:55)

Janet Skinner: Um, when I went-, when I searched for it last week.

(TC: 00:32:59)

Diane Matthews: So, last week, before obviously anything happened on Tuesday? Right. On Tuesday, was Katherine due to work?

(TC: 00:33:08)

Janet Skinner: No.

(TC: 00:33:10)

Diane Matthews: Who was due to be on half day, starting in the afternoon?

(TC: 00:33:15)

Janet Skinner: It was, um, Wendy and Theresa, and me in the morning, and Theresa finished at two.

(TC: 00:33:23)

Diane Matthews: Who came in half day? Who came in around dinner time?

(TC: 00:33:25)

Janet Skinner: No, it was just us three.

(TC: 00:33:29)

Diane Matthews: Right. Does any of the other staff know what's going on?

(TC: 00:33:31)

Janet Skinner: Um, yeah. Sort of.

(TC: 00:33:34)

Diane Matthews: What do you mean by sort of?

(TC: 00:33:36)

Janet Skinner: Well, I've told-, well, yeah, they know what's going on because obviously the office is closed.

(TC: 00:33:41)

Diane Matthews: But before-, before that, before, um, Diane and Julie came to your office, was any of the other people there aware that there was a shortage in the office that was being accounted for?

(TC: 00:33:51)

Janet Skinner: Not at that moment, no.

(TC: 00:33:52)

Diane Matthews: Right. What happens when you're on holiday?

(TC: 00:33:56)

Janet Skinner: Um-,

(TC: 00:34:00)

Diane Matthews: So, let's just say when you're on cash accounts-,

(TC: 00:34:03)

Janet Skinner: Yeah. Last week?

(TC: 00:34:04)

Diane Matthews: No.

(TC: 00:34:05)

Janet Skinner: Last year?

(TC: 00:34:05)

Diane Matthews: Last year. Er, from November '04, you've got £1,400 that's been added to your cash. When you're on holiday, is someone else adding it onto the cash for you?

(TC: 00:34:15)

Janet Skinner: No, because our stock unit was right. It was in-, it was only the other stock unit that was wrong.

(TC: 00:34:22)

Diane Matthews: But it still has to be declared and balanced.

(TC: 00:34:23)

Janet Skinner: It was just rolled over.

(TC: 00:34:25)

Diane Matthews: So, the cash-, you never had to redeclare the cash?

(TC: 00:34:28)

Janet Skinner: Not in (mw 34.29), no.

(TC: 00:34:30)

Diane Matthews: What did you do? Press an active rollover?

(TC: 00:34:32)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:34:33)

Diane Matthews: Right. What about from January? Have you been off?

(TC: 00:34:40)

Janet Skinner: No.

(TC: 00:34:41)

Diane Matthews: Right. So, you complete all the branch trading statements and it's you that's been adding cash on-,

(TC: 00:34:49)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:34:49)

Diane Matthews: For that week. Right. On this last branch trading statement which we've got, trading statement two, which is the, um-, for-, this covers a period 26th April to the 25th May. Okay, I'll just show you-, show you that. First of all, is that your signature?

(TC: 00:35:14)

Janet Skinner: Yes, that's mine.

(TC: 00:35:14)

Diane Matthews: £151.99 short. So, this was, like, last week. Did you put that cheque in for that?

(TC: 00:35:20)

Janet Skinner: I put cash in for it.

(TC: 00:35:21)

Diane Matthews: So, there's cash gone in for that?

(TC: 00:35:23)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:35:24)

Diane Matthews: So, when Steve said to you, 'When was the last time you made the shortage good?' it would have been the 25th of the fifth because you've put that money in.

(TC: 00:35:30)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:35:32)

Diane Matthews: Do you want to just read out the cash on hand figure for me there?

(TC: 00:35:35)

Janet Skinner: Um, £65,000. That was over £45.85.

(TC: 00:35:43)

Diane Matthews: Right. Is that a true account of what cash was in your office in the last week?

(TC: 00:35:46)

Janet Skinner: No.

(TC: 00:35:47)

Diane Matthews: Why isn't it?

(TC: 00:35:49)

Janet Skinner: Because the money was already short.

(TC: 00:35:50)

Diane Matthews: Right. How much by?

(TC: 00:35:52)

Janet Skinner: 40.

(TC: 00:35:53)

Diane Matthews: So, it was £40,000 short last Wednesday, and between Wednesday and Tuesday, of which you were only open Thursday, Friday, half day Saturday?

(TC: 00:36:03)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:36:04)

Diane Matthews: Right. Two and a half days. There's another £20,000 gone. Did you keep a running total of how much short your office was? Right. So, that's in CC stock.

(TC: 00:36:26)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:36:26)

Diane Matthews: So, you declared the cash in CC stock and it was £40,253 and 85p short on the 25th-, and that was the amount of the shortage within your office?

(TC: 00:36:41)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:36:42)

Diane Matthews: Right. So, between the 25th of the fifth, and the 30th of the fifth, which is two and a half days-, well, let's say three because you also had the Tuesday morning before Diane got there, there's £19,000 gone.

(TC: 00:36:59)

Janet Skinner: I know.

(TC: 00:36:59)

Diane Matthews: Disappeared. Who was in Thursday?

(TC: 00:37:03)

Janet Skinner: Last week?

(TC: 00:37:05)

Diane Matthews: Yeah.

(TC: 00:37:06)

Janet Skinner: Um, me, Theresa, Wendy-, oh no, me and Katherine were Monday. Theresa.

(TC: 00:37:17)

Diane Matthews: Right, and Friday?

(TC: 00:37:20)

Stephen Bradshaw: When do you get your remittance delivered?

(TC: 00:37:22)

Diane Matthews: Thursday afternoon, Tuesday afternoon.

(TC: 00:37:27)

Stephen Bradshaw: So, the day after this says. That was done on the 25th. Right, so that was declared-,

(TC: 00:37:36)

Diane Matthews: That would be (mw 37.37) on the 26th.

(TC: 00:37:40)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:37:39)

Stephen Bradshaw: On the 26th, which is the Friday?

(TC: 00:37:41)

Diane Matthews: Thursday.

(TC: 00:37:42)

Janet Skinner: Thursday.

(TC: 00:37:42)

Stephen Bradshaw: Thursday. So, you've got-, so that money includes your remittance then?

(TC: 00:37:48)

Janet Skinner: No.

(TC: 00:37:50)

Stephen Bradshaw: No. Sorry, that's the date. That's the Wednesday, isn't it?

(TC: 00:37:51)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:37:50)

Stephen Bradshaw: Sorry, yeah.

(TC: 00:37:52)

Diane Matthews: Did you always declare-, if I get your trading statements-, I mean, I've got trading statement TP902. So, if I look here on C, there's £3,664 and a penny declared. Is that a lot-, is that a shortage that's been-,

(TC: 00:38:16)

Janet Skinner: No, that was actually there, apart from the £1,400.

(TC: 00:38:21)

Diane Matthews: So, the £1,400 is being over-claimed in the CC stock?

(TC: 00:38:26)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:38:27)

Diane Matthews: And that's part of the 3,664?

(TC: 00:38:29)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:38:29)

Diane Matthews: Right, okay. So, there was (inaudible 38.31) cash in that stock then?

(TC: 00:38:32)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:38:33)

Diane Matthews: Did you get rid of that cash out of there?

(TC: 00:38:35)

Janet Skinner: Um, yeah, and that one. That was the other one.

(TC: 00:38:40)

Diane Matthews: Right. So, from-, if I go back and get these trading statements, that figure in C is going to be what you were rolling because you lost it, is that right?

(TC: 00:38:50)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:38:52)

Stephen Bradshaw: Yes, and that's happened since November '04.

(TC: 00:38:53)

Janet Skinner: Yeah. The other one, BB, there was actually-, there was actually transactions saved in that because I have to cover (inaudible 38.59).

(TC: 00:39:01)

Diane Matthews: Okay. So, just to clarify what we've got here then. That from November '04 up until the present time, that you were the postmistress at Northbrantown (ph 39.13). Each and every week, or every month, when you were under branch trading, your cash has been inflated by an amount of money in order to not show losses within your office?

(TC: 00:39:26)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:39:27)

Diane Matthews: And not to alert that there was a problem in your office. Is that fair?

(TC: 00:39:30)

Janet Skinner: (mw 39.30) problem, yeah.

(TC: 00:39:32)

Diane Matthews: Um, you knew it was wrong to do that, you knew it was wrong to declare cash that you didn't have in your office?

(TC: 00:39:38)

Janet Skinner: (mw 39.39) wrong, yeah.

(TC: 00:39:41)

Diane Matthews: Okay. Is there anything you want to add?

(TC: 00:39:46)

Stephen Bradshaw: This 40, and we've got 65, that only leaves 25. How much are you normally getting on your end?

(TC: 00:39:55)

Janet Skinner: Um, not a great deal, to be honest. It's usually change.

(TC: 00:39:57)

Stephen Bradshaw: Is it? So, on a Thursday, what-, (TC 00:40:00) what notes would you have got in?

(TC: 00:40:01)

Janet Skinner: Um, it depends. Usually-, I usually only get about three-,

(TC: 00:40:05)

Stephen Bradshaw: It's only last week.

(TC: 00:40:05)

Janet Skinner: Yeah. About £3,000 or £4,000.

(TC: 00:40:08)

Stephen Bradshaw: Right. So, if you've got £3,000 in, that will leave you with 28. But we've got £40,000 overinflated, of which another nineteen, which leaves you with nine. Now, if memory serves correctly, I think we found about £10,000 in cash, give or take a bit, was it?

(TC: 00:40:23)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:40:24)

Stephen Bradshaw: How did you manage to serve customers?

(TC: 00:40:26)

Janet Skinner: Do you know-, do you know what's bothering me more? I can remember a few months back-, I don't know which cash counter it's on, but I can remember running back over £30,000.

(TC: 00:40:39)

Diane Matthews: Is that because it was requested?

(TC: 00:40:41)

Janet Skinner: Yes-, well, no, it's because I had too much, do you know, and I (mw 40.45) it back. And I mean, like, I had £80,000 just in £50 notes to bring back. Do you know, so-, and I did rim (ph 40.52) a

large amount of money back. But it's not been able to do that for quite some time and it's just, like, being going down and down and down.

(TC: 00:40:58)

Diane Matthews: Have you had requests to send money back?

(TC: 00:41:00)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:41:01)

Diane Matthews: And have you just ignored them because you've not had money there?

(TC: 00:41:04)

Janet Skinner: No, because I have sent-, I have sent money back.

(TC: 00:41:05)

Diane Matthews: But if you're-, I mean, because you've got 60 grand that isn't there, you're so far over target that they're asking you for money to be sent back. Possibly large amounts, substantial amounts of money, and you've been sending it back?

(TC: 00:41:20)

Janet Skinner: Yes, because now it seems as if, like, I've had less in-,

(TC: 00:41:24)

Diane Matthews: Well, you've been having the same in, but it's just not there. So, if they're asking for money back, because you're already starting 60 grand, or-, well, let's just say from the start of the year, you're seven grand short, building up. If they're asking for money, you've not got it to send back. Because if you send it back, you're not going to be able to open for service to the customers. Did you realise you were getting quite close to the bone to not having money?

(TC: 00:41:48)

Janet Skinner: Yeah.

(TC: 00:41:50)

Diane Matthews: What would you have done if you (toeo 41.54)?

(TC: 00:41:53)

Janet Skinner: Well, when-, when Julia and Diane came in on Tuesday and they said they just wanted to do a check, and did I have any objection, I just basically told them, and I told them because it needs to be sorted out.

(TC: 00:42:08)

Diane Matthews: And that's why, obviously, you're here today?

(TC: 00:42:11)

Janet Skinner: Yes, it is, and I-, I do want it to be sorted out.

(TC: 00:42:15)

Diane Matthews: You've already-,

(TC: 00:42:18)

Stephen Bradshaw: (inaudible 42.15) That's the tape about to go off. I don't think-, we haven't got much more, I think, to go through. Can you just read that number out for me?

(TC: 00:42:26)

Janet Skinner: 043367.

(TC: 00:42:29)

Stephen Bradshaw: And just sign the top of there for me?

(TC: 00:42:35)

Janet Skinner: Before it does go off, can I just ask-, I mean, I know they paid me the other day, but I need to pay wages and the rent out of it. Am I able to do that?

(TC: 00:42:44)

Stephen Bradshaw: Well, we'll discuss that-,

(TC: 00:42:47)

Diane Matthews: That's something we can discuss with (inaudible 42.48).

(TC: 00:42:49)

Stephen Bradshaw: Yeah. It's 14:56. Switching off the tape. (Silence 42.55-44.44).

