



Witness Statement

(CJ Act 1967, s9; MC Act 1980, ss 5A(3)(a)
and 5B, MC Rules 1981, r 70)

Statement of Katherine Margaret AYRES

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

This statement (consisting of two 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 17 day of July 2006

Signature

I have been employed as a counter clerk at North Bransholme Post Office for around 6 years. I had no previous of working in a Post Office prior to this.

My hours of work varied each week on a 2 week rota. I work either all day Monday or 2 half days, Monday and Tuesday, Wednesday all day, Thursday till 2pm and 2 hours on a Saturday.

I was off work from July 2005 to January 2006. When I returned, I had no keyholder responsibilities. I have taken the keys on 2 or 3 occasions but this was not on a regular basis.

I had my own user code, KAY001. I had a password, which was known to Subpostmistress Janet Skinner. She had phoned me at home to ask what the password was so she could serve on one terminal and print reports on another. I did not know anybody else's password.

Before I went off ill in July 2005, I used an individual stock unit BB. When I returned in January 2006, we had one shared stock unit AA which we all used.

I noticed some procedural changes when I returned. The cash declarations were no longer being done as they used to be done each night. I did not get involved in this area.

As I worked each Wednesday, I used to check the cash and stock, again when I returned this

Signature

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Continuation of statement of Katherine Margaret AYRES

changed. Janet used to say around 5pm that as it was quiet and most things done, I could go home. I was told to leave the screen on so she could do the reports. I did that and went home.

The only large loss I had was for £1000 in June 2005. I was on an individual stock unit and placed the cash and stock in a bag in the safe. I did seal the bag on occasions but when I removed it the next day it was open. Janet told me they had to check the cash. I was £700 over originally but Janet took it out as she said it was meant for her stock. When I balanced I was then £1,000 short. Although I argued with Janet, I had to agree to repay it. I went off sick but when I returned I was getting some money off my dad's estate as he had passed away. When the money came through, I gave Janet £500 towards it, this was on May 25th 2006.

When I was on individual stock, I was always putting £10 here and £20 there in the till to put shortages right but did not know how they occurred. On a couple of occasions during 2005 Janet asked to borrow between £300 to £400 to pay staff wages. I lent her the money and she paid it back. This year I lent her £60 but she has not repaid this and I do not know what the money was for.

I have been shown a schedule of transactions on stock unit CC on May 24th 2006, which is known as DM9. This shows transactions performed on my user code at 17.35 to 17.50. I did not perform these transactions as I had left the office at around 17.00. Also I never worked on CC stock unit.

I did not think Janet really liked me but she knew I had a little cash put aside and that is why she asked to borrow of me.

I have not stolen any money from North Bransholme Post Office and I do not know where the cash has gone.

Signature

Signature witnessed by

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