

Memo



Royal Mail

The Real Network

6th December 2006

Investigation Team Post Office Limited

c.c. Diane Matthews

Legal Services
3rd Floor
6a Eccleston Street
Victoria
LONDON SW1W 9LT

GRO

www.royalmail.com

POST OFFICE LIMITED v JANET LOUISE SKINNER
HULL MAGISTRATES COURT
COMMITTAL – 12TH DECEMBER 2006 AT 10AM
CASE NO: POLTD/0607/0108

The committal papers have been approved and served on the Defence Solicitors and Court. I enclose your copy, together with copy Form 14A. As agreed DH/4, DH/5 and DD/3 has been removed. These can be added to the unused.

I have noted the present position regarding Wendy Lyell and that Police enquiries are continuing. This information will need to be disclosed to the Defence in due course. Further attempts will need to be reviewed to see whether the charge of theft stands. Apprehension of Mrs Lyell is not in itself conclusive evidence that she alone was the thief. However this will depend on the evidence revealed in due course. I have also removed Wendy Lyell's statement from the bundle, this can be placed on the unused.

The papers in any event reveal a good case for false accounting.

Our Agents will prosecute at Hull Magistrates Court on the 12th December. Could the Officer ensure that the original witness statements are taken to Court and handed to the Agents.

As soon as I am aware of the defence requirements concerning witnesses I shall inform you. Please then immediately obtain leave dates/dates to avoid of all of those witnesses. When obtaining their dates to avoid, please let the witnesses know that it is of the utmost importance that if any of their dates change and, in particular, if a holiday is booked after they have given you their dates to avoid then they should inform you, or this Office, immediately. Please then return the file to this Office together with the dates to avoid.

As you are aware, under the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996, witness orders are abolished. It is therefore, your responsibility to ensure the voluntary attendance at court of witnesses, or to make arrangements to issue a witness summons from the Court if a witness whose attendance is required indicates that he/she is unwilling to attend.

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In accordance with the most recent Practice Direction seven copies of the antecedent documents must be prepared which must be sent to this Office. We shall then forward copies to the Crown Court.

J A McFarlane
Principal Lawyer
Criminal Law Division

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Ref: CRM/254194/JMcF

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