

6th December 2006

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Dear Sirs

ROYAL MAIL GROUP plc v JANET LOUISE SKINNER
HULL MAGISTRATES COURT
COMMITTAL - 12TH DECEMBER 2006

I would first refer you to the minutes of the 24th November 2006 and the 4th December 2006 from the Officer Diane Matthews. As I understand it Mrs Wisker is the Temporary Subpostmistress at North Bransholme having taken over the Office following Janet Skinner's apprehension. Police enquiries have not yet been completed with this matter. Whilst clearly the new information does not bear well with the prosecution case particularly as Miss Lyell is the witness, this does not necessarily mean that Miss Lyell is the only thief at the Office. The papers in any event do reveal a very sophisticated method of false accounting on behalf of Miss Skinner in order to conceal a loss for which she raised little concern with her staff. Naturally the above information will need to be disclosed to the Defence (although the Officers reports themselves are confidential).

I would suggest that either the case is committed at this stage and reviewed later or alternatively the case is further adjourned pending the outcome of enquiries regarding Miss Lyell.

In addition I enclose copies of statements and exhibits that I have served on the Court and on The Max Gold Partnership who are the Solicitors acting for the Defendant plus copy of Form 14A.

I also enclose, separately, a list of witnesses and their addresses to be handed to the Court, if so requested. This list should not be disclosed to the Defence.

I have asked the Officer to bring the original statements to Court and I shall be grateful if you will in turn kindly hand them to the Court on committal. If the original exhibits are requested and are not available at Court on the committal date, no doubt an adjournment could be sought so that the original exhibits could be produced.

Please note that the Indictment in this case will be settled by Counsel and lodged with the Crown Court within the period allowed by Rule 5 of the Indictments (Procedure) Rules 1971.

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Could you please write to me immediately after the committal giving details of the witness requirements of the Defence, if given, and the terms of bail in order that I may prepare the Brief / Instructions to Counsel.

If the Defence have indicated the nature of their Client's plea perhaps you could let me know together with details of any reasons they have given.

Yours faithfully

J A McFarlane
Principal Lawyer
Criminal Law Division

GRO