

Royal Mail Group

CONFIDENTIAL Witness Statement

Criminal Justice Act 1967, Section 9; Magistrates Court Act 1980, sub section. 5A(3)(a) and 5B; Criminal Procedure Rules 2005, Rule 27.1

Statement of: Nigel ALLEN

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

This statement (consisting of 2 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 22 day of September 2011

Signature

GRO

I am the person named above and have been employed by the Post Office for approximately 26 years. I am currently employed as a Contracts Manager based in Wimborne, Dorset. Although over recent years my job title has changed I have been involved in dealing with Subpostmaster contractual issues since September 2001.

I am responsible for a number of Sub Post Office Branches (SPOB) within the Post Office network. The area that I cover can change from time to time, although on 30 March 2011 the Sub Post Offices that I was responsible for included those in the Portsmouth (PO) postcode area, which thus included the Rowlands Castle branch, postcode PO9 6BW. On that date I was contacted by Mr Adam Shaw, Field Support Advisor who advised me of the result of an audit he was conducting at that branch. In view of the unexplained deficit identified I precautionary suspended Mrs Lynette Hutchings' contract for services as postmaster at that branch. On 14 April 2011 I wrote to Mrs Hutchings advising her of my decision to summarily terminate her contract as postmaster at Rowlands Castle SPOB. I had previously written to Mrs Hutchings on 06 April 2011 inviting her to attend an interview on 13 April 2011 but I did not receive any response. I now produce a copy of the letter dated 14 April 2011, which cites the grounds for the termination, as item NA/1.

As postmaster, Mrs Hutchings was responsible for the general day to day running of the office. All postmasters on appointment are bound by a contract with Post Office Ltd. I now produce copies of sections 1, 12 and 15 of that contract as item NA/2.

From business records I can see that Mrs Hutchings was appointed as postmaster of Rowlands Castle Post

Signature

GRO

Signature witnessed by