

**Jack Caster**

---

**From:** McGowan, Stephen \PF, Major Crime & Fatalities Investigation\ on behalf of  
McGowan, Stephen \PF, Major Crime & Fatalities Investigation\

**GRO**

**Sent:** 20 March 2014 14:38  
**To:** Belinda Crowe  
**Cc:** DSC PA \Gill Sandison\ \Gioia Ezzi\

**Subject:** RE: Horizon System in Scottish Criminal Prosecution

Dear Belinda

I wonder if you have had the opportunity to consider my email?

Regards

Stephen

---

From: McGowan, Stephen (PF, Major Crime & Fatalities Investigation)  
Sent: 11 March 2014 09:40  
To: 'Belinda.Crowe' **GRO**  
Cc: DSC PA (Gill Sandison) (Gioia Ezzi)  
Subject: Horizon System in Scottish Criminal Prosecution

Dear Belinda

I refer to our telephone conversation yesterday. I explained that on behalf of the Solicitor General for Scotland, we have been considering a prosecution brought in 2004 of an Elaine Doran, born **GRO** who was alleged to have embezzled approximately £7000 from a Sub Post Office in Cumnock, Lanarkshire. On behalf of the Solicitor General I am carrying out a review of Mrs Doran's case.

That prosecution depended upon Mrs Doran having no acceptable explanation for a discrepancy between the cash in the Sub Post Office and that which should have been there according to the Horizon System. The criminal prosecution was based upon the amounts that were due to be there according to the System.

Our concern is whether or not we took up a case on the basis of potentially flawed evidence. I am aware of the second site report into the Horizon System which when it was published in July 2013 had not found evidence of systemic problems with Horizon software but was aware of two incidents where defects or "bugs" in the Horizon System gave rise to certain branches being affected by incorrect balances or transactions.

Was the Horizon System in 2004 the same system that was in place when the second site review was done?

In order to be able to assess the accuracy of the Horizon evidence it is essential to know how the System worked and whether it was accurate. I would be grateful if this case could be reviewed by the Post Office in order that I can make an assessment as to whether or not the prosecution was brought appropriately.

I am happy to discuss any matters raised in this email and am grateful in advance for your assistance.

Regards

Stephen McGowan  
Procurator Fiscal  
Major Crime & Fatalities Investigation

**GRO**

This e-mail (and any files or other attachments transmitted with it) is intended solely for the attention of the addressee(s). Unauthorised use, disclosure, storage, copying or distribution of any part of this e-mail is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient, please destroy the e-mail, remove any copies from your system and inform the sender immediately by return.

Correspondents should note that all communications to or from the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service may be automatically logged, monitored and/or recorded for lawful purposes. Unless expressly indicated, the views or opinions contained within this e-mail do not necessarily reflect those of the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service.

This message has been checked for the presence of computer viruses. Visit [www.crownoffice.gov.uk](http://www.crownoffice.gov.uk) for details of the work of the Department.

The original of this email was scanned for viruses by the Government Secure Intranet virus scanning service supplied by Vodafone in partnership with Symantec. (CCTM Certificate Number 2009/09/0052.) On leaving the GSi this email was certified virus free.

Communications via the GSi may be automatically logged, monitored and/or recorded for legal purposes.