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Mr John Scott
Post Office Head Office
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EW/LJ/1040590004/7

14 April 2015

our ref:
your ref:
email:

Dear Mr Scott,

Re: Peter Damian McCartan

We refer to the papers received previously from the Security Manager, Suzanne Winter, relating to an investigation into Sub Postmaster Peter Damian McCartan of Ballynafeigh Post Office.

A comprehensive report was prepared and there would appear to be no doubt that the Sub Postmaster stole £45,555.22 from the Post Office. At the termination of his final interview (after the tape recording had been switched off) he asked the Union representative with him, 'if he should mention Horizon now' and was advised not to. The submission of the file to the Public Prosecution Service was put on hold pending a report from specialists to address the Horizon issues.

You will be aware that the Horizon issue remains unresolved and we understand it may be a further six to nine months before a specialist report will be available.

The alleged theft was brought to Mr McCartan's attention on the 3rd January 2013 during an audit and subsequent interviews. He was suspended and is now no longer employed by the Post Office. While a report, referred to above, will eventually be made available it is likely that from the date of submission of the criminal file to the PPS there could be a further period of 12 to 18 months before a prosecution hearing. The time period involved in this may well become a matter of adverse comment in relation to Mr McCartan's human rights, I have no doubt his defence team will raise an issue in that regard.

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In view of this we suggest you review this matter. We could submit the file without the specialist report and while we are confident there should be a conviction, irrespective of the Horizon matters, they are likely to be commented upon in the court case. We understand that may have a detrimental impact in relation to ongoing investigations in England and Wales.

A further option is to consider the merit of continuing to await the specialist IT report and reassess the possible Human Rights aspect when such report is available.

I await your further instructions.

Yours sincerely,
McCARTAN TURKINGTON BREEN

GRO

ERNIE WATERWORTH
Consultant

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secretary's direct dial -

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cc: Simon Hutchinson