

Internal memo

To Deborah Helszajn
Senior Lawyer

cc
Date 8th November 2004

From Manish Patel
Internal Crime Operations Manager

Subject POST OFFICE Ltd v PAGE GRO
PAPER NOS: SIMS/6299

Debbie

Further to the letter received from JMW dated 28th October 2004, I have addressed each of the points below:-

1. Copies of the cheques used by GRO for the purchase of the euros form exhibit SB/01, copies of this exhibit have already been supplied to your office and as I understand JMW did not want copies of this exhibit previously. I do have slightly better copies of the microfilm copies and can make these available for inspection at a mutually suitable time and venue.
2. All of the Forde Moneychanger till roll printouts for the relevant period form part of exhibit NJW/1 and NJW/2 (police exhibits). Currently only the relevant portion of the till rolls has been copied and produced as further exhibits by myself, however having discussed this issue with you last week, I can confirm that arrangements have now been made to copy all of the till rolls relevant to the period of the charge in their entirety. This work will commence on Monday 8th November 2004 and should be completed within two weeks.
3. It has been confirmed previously due to a similar request from Frisby & Co Solicitors that Rugeley Post Office did not register any corporate customers; I trust a copy of the list of registered corporate customers supplied previously can be made available to JMW Solicitors.



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The next part of point 3 cannot be answered. I would not be aware of any unregistered Corporate customers as if they were unregistered there would be no record of them on the Registered Corporate customer list, the only person who could confirm if there were any customers treated as unregistered corporate customers would be Mr Carl Page.

I have spoken to Eddie Jarman, Overseas Travel Product Manager with regards to the annual rebate scheme provided to corporate customers. I have been informed that this scheme was terminated some 6-8 years ago and is no longer available, nor was it available during the period of the Rugeley enquiry. Mr Jarman was able to say that when the scheme was in operation each customer would have their contract drawn up to reflect the rebate scheme and it would only be available to the customer if they bought a certain amount of currency per year, this would then allow them to claim back a rebate based on a percentage of the total yearly purchase. Each customer's percentage would be agreed with the customer at the time of the contract negotiation and would be based on the volume being purchased therefore each customer who elected to join the scheme may well have different percentage values written into their contract. As far as Mr Jarman can remember, he believes very few customers took up the rebate scheme and as already mentioned it was not available during the period Mr Whitehouse has been using Rugeley Post Office for his currency transactions.

COPIES

1. Exhibit No. 24 is exhibit NJW/1 which consists of two bags of Forde Moneychanger till rolls recovered during the search of Rugeley Post Office. These till rolls consist of a variety of dates including periods in 2001, which do not form part of the evidence in relation to the charge. The relevant till rolls covering the period from 9th March 2002 to 13th January 2003 are now in the process of being copied in their entirety.



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2. Exhibit No. 25 is exhibit NJW/2 which consists of further Forde Moneychanger till rolls recovered during the search of Rugeley Post Office. As indicated above the relevant till rolls are now in the process of being copied.
3. I trust you have a copy of page 315 of Mr Pages interview with the Police, if not please let me know and I will forward another copy.

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Exhibit 17 (FEARN 0002), Customs & Excise exhibit taken from the glove compartment of a Silver BMW [GRO]. Customs & Excise retained copies of the Post Office Forde Moneychanger receipts and the completed stub portion of the HSBC chequebook. The Police ultimately returned the originals to Mr [GRO]. The rest of the exhibit would have been the blank portion of the chequebook, which has not been copied or retained.

Exhibit 20, (TRM 3) Customs & Excise exhibit recovered from [GRO] home address, The exhibit is described as HSBC chequebook, Cheques 100301 – 100314, 3 x pink Thomas Cook payment receipts and 3 x blue Thomas Cook payment receipts. Again original exhibits have since been handed back to Mr [GRO] and the only copies retained by the Police relate to the Thomas Cook payment receipts. The HSBC chequebook was not retained nor copies taken.

Exhibit 26, (NJW/4), consists of several portions of Forde Moneychanger till roll receipts, the four (4) portions already copied refer to Euros and the seven (7) other portions refer to U. S Dollars and therefore have not been copied.

Exhibit 29, (NJW/8) miscellaneous documents recovered during the Police search of Rugeley Post Office. The only items not copied from this exhibit relate to a couple of bits of paperwork for the sale of travellers cheques which do not form part of this enquiry, hence have not been copied.

Exhibit 44, (MAP/01) consists of four (4) exercise books used by the staff at Rugeley Post Office to record details of cheques, the two (2) exercise books



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covering the charge period have been copied, the remaining two (2) exercise books cover periods in 2000 and 2001 and hence have not been copied.

Exhibit 137, (PB/88) consists of paperwork from Thomas Cook Retail in relation to the transactions they conducted with **GRO** over the relevant period. The part copied refers to the fact that the CCTV video cassette produced as part of the same exhibit by Pippa Barker has not been copied, everything else forming that exhibit has been copied.

The above also applies to Exhibit 136 (which JMW haven't asked about), exhibit 146 (PB/97), exhibit 147 (PB/98), exhibit 148 (PB/99), exhibit 149 (PB/100), exhibit 150 (PB/101), exhibit 151 (PB/102), exhibit 152 (PB/103), exhibit 153 (PB/104), exhibit 154 (PB/105), exhibit 155 (PB/106), exhibit 156 (PB/107), exhibit 157 (PB/108), exhibit 158 (PB/109), exhibit 159 (PB/110), exhibit 160 (PB/111), exhibit 161 (PB/112), exhibit 162 (PB/113) and exhibit 163 (PB/114).

All of the videotapes capture the footage of **GRO** conducting his transactions at various Thomas Cook Retail outlets. They have not been viewed by me and currently are not relied upon as the paperwork in relation to these transfers forms the exhibit, which **GRO** as I understand does not dispute. Furthermore bank statements for **GRO** accounts show details of the credits being paid into his account by Thomas Cook Retail further demonstrating that he did carry out the transaction.

I trust the above meets with your satisfaction and should you require anything further please do not hesitate to contact me on the number shown below.

GRO

GRO Manish Patel
Investigation Team Manager
Post Office Ltd. Security

GRO



Internal memo

To Deborah Helszajn
Senior Lawyer

cc
Date 9th November 2004

From Manish Patel
Internal Crime Operations Manager

Subject POST OFFICE Ltd v PAGE GRO
PAPER NOS: SIMS/6299

Debbie

Further to the letter received from JMW dated 5th November 2004, I have addressed each of the points below:-

1. As per Hugh Stacey's statement, when the Post Office first commenced offering currency at its Post Offices in 1993, the currency was supplied by First rate Currency Services (FRCS), a subsidiary of the Bank of Ireland. In March 2002 the subsidiary company name changed to First Rate Travel Services (FRTS) who now supply currency to the Post Office. I can confirm that no other company supplies the Post Office with currency.
2. No other companies used.
3. All cheques accepted at Rugeley Post Office during the period in question will in normal course have been microfilmed; the microfilm is currently being recovered from the archived stores. All cheques despatched from the Post Office would have been accompanied with a Batch Control Voucher (BCV), which would have provided a summary of the total number of cheques and total value despatched. These cheques would consist of all transactions conducted in the Post Office over the course of that day and could be anywhere from 5 cheques to 100 cheques per day. There would be nothing on the front of the cheque to differentiate it from a cheque taken for the Bureau product or one taken to pay the phone bill. The only way to extract those cheques taken for the Bureau product is to examine the reverse of the cheque and see what the clerk performing the transaction has written



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on the back. For a Bureau product the clerk should write **Bureau** or **BC** on the back. I anticipate that this exercise will take some time as it will require someone to actually sit and examine every single cheque taken over a 9 month period and print of those which have Bureau written on the back. I will be in Chesterfield on Thursday 11th 2004 and will gauge the level of work this will require but at a guess I would suggest that it would take at least 2 weeks (from w/c 15.11.04). However I do not think there will be too many cheques actually taken for the Bureau product so in terms of amount of paper, there should not be too much.

4. I have spoken to Customs & Excise today who confirmed that it is their standard procedure to place large cash seizures into high interest bearing accounts, unless there is a need evidentially to retain the actual notes themselves, which was not the case with Rugeley.

The Euros were seized on the 13th January 2003 and were banked within a couple of days and would have received the exchange rate provided by the bank on the day (which Customs don't know). The money would have then lost it's identity as euros and was an amount of sterling held in the high interest bearing account.

The money including interest accrued was then electronically transferred to the Post Office account on 15th May 2003, the total amount received by the Post Office was £385,364.61. [GRO] had paid £360,493.83 for 584,000 euros using cheques, which were not cashed (were stopped by [GRO] later anyway). Therefore the amount of interest was £24,870.78.

[GRO]

[GRO]

GRO

Manish Patel
Investigation Team Manager
Post Office Ltd. Security

[GRO]

