

Gary R Thomas
10/11/2011 14:15

To: Gary Adderley; GRO; Lin Norbury/e/PO
Post Office Security <GRO>, Helen R
Southin; GRO
cc:
Subject: 48 Hour Offender Reporting - Yetminster - POLTD

Suspect Offender Reporting

To be e mailed to Team Leader, Post Office Security, Helen Rose, Financial Investigator (if applicable) and Primary Stakeholder within two working days of interview

Case reference:	POLTD/1112/0163
Branch Name / Location:	Yetminster
Branch Code:	267518
Enquiry Type:	Audit - Cash Loss
Name of Person(s) Interviewed:	Miss Tracey Merritt
Grade(s):	Subpostmistress
Date of Interview(s):	09-Nov-11
Primary Stakeholder:	Gary Adderley/Lin Norbury
BRIEF Summary of case:	<p>Information was received suggesting that if this office was audited it would be found to be around £12K short. This information came from a Holidayrelief that had worked in this office during August 2011. On receiving this information I conducted some checks and instigated a Special Audit request that was scheduled for 29th September 2011. An audit was conducted at the office to verify financial assets due to the Post Office® and confirm compliance with a range of Business processes, procedures and regulatory requirements. The audit revealed a shortage of £11,886.77 at the two branches of Yetminster & the outreach office at Chetnole under the control of the Postmistress Miss Tracey Merritt. Clearly the information received appeared to be accurate in its earlier</p>

suggestion. The Event Log Balancing showed shortages apparent during August 2011 although the Postmistress advised both the auditor's on the day and the Contracts Manager over the telephone that she had only taken the money the night before the audit for personal reasons. A cheque for £9,500 was found to be at the branch although was not entered onto Horizon.

BRIEF summary of admissions/denials made at interview:

On commencement of the interview PM produced documentation from Computer Weekly with regards to the enquiry **Justice For Sub-Postmasters being undertaken by Shoosmiths** stating that 11,500 Postmasters were saying the system was at fault. She said when she transferred to Horizon On Line was when her problems began with a £2000 loss that doubled to £4000. She continued to explain examples when the Horizon System had frozen. **This will clearly be an Horizon Challenge Integrity Case going forward.** Miss Merritt denied she had ever taken or used Post Office money for her own use and retracted what she stated on the day to the auditors and the Contract Manager Gary Adderley that she had used the money for a personal reason the day before the auditors had turned up claiming she would have said anything at that time locked in a room with two auditors. I confirmed she was not locked in a room but actually within the Secure Area of the Post Office at Yetminster. I stated that I had instigated the audit following information from the Holidayrelief about there being £12K missing which appeared to be correct.

Procedural Failings identified:

Daughters Password compromised as known by Postmistress

Date of Suspension:

29-Sep-11

Suspended on authority of:

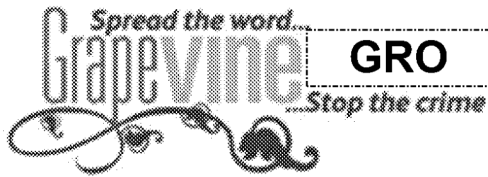
Gary Adderley/Lin Norbury

Date of resignation:	N/A
Date of Arrest:	N/A
Current Identified Loss:	£11,886.77
Recovery:	Nil
Details of further enquiries required	Witness Statements from HolidayRelief, Auditor, Contracts Manager etc. Forward GS045 Bank Authority Forms regarding Bank Accounts etc. Land Registry check. Possible request for Horizon Data.
Has this case been reported to a Financial Investigator (i.e. for all cases over £5K)	Yes
Any other comments	Miss Tracey Merritt made a number of references to mistakes and a lack of support by the business that I agreed to take away and to pass to somebody who would contact her and try to assist and answer her queries that were outside of the suspected criminal activity.
Security Manager:	Gary Thomas
Security Programme Manager:	Jason Collins
Date Completed:	10-Nov-11

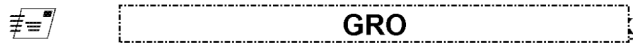
Regards

GRO

Gary Thomas
Security Manager
Security Operations
Post Office Ltd



GRO Mobex GRO



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