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Solicitor & Legal Services Director

23 September 2004



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For the attention of Andrew W Broome

Legal Services



Tel: GRO  
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Our Ref: CRM/239850/DH  
Your Ref: AB/VK/10161

Dear Sirs

REGINA -v- GRO & CARL ADRIAN PAGE  
STAFFORD CROWN COURT - 4 JANUARY 2005

I write concerning unused material held by H M Customs & Excise in London, which relates to GRO

Although the material held by Customs & Excise had previously been inspected on behalf of this office, in the light of earlier correspondence I asked Counsel to review all the material held at Custom House. Following his inspection, it remains the view of the prosecution that none of this material falls for disclosure. However, in the interests of transparency, I wish to advise you of the following:

- (a) In the autumn of 2001, there was a brief investigation into suspected money-laundering involving currency transactions in Belgian Francs, Dutch Guilders and Irish Punts. None of these had been transacted through the Rugeley Sub Post Office. Following this, no action was taken against GRO
- (b) In September 2002, a further investigation began into suspected money-laundering by GRO and RPX Recycled Plastics Ltd.
- (c) As part of this investigation, Production Orders were obtained at Southwark Crown Court (i) on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2002 against Thomas Cook, and (ii) on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2002 against HSBC.
- (d) Following a financial investigation, a surveillance operation centred on GRO commenced on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2002.
- (e) On 8<sup>th</sup> January 2003, a BMW motor car index GRO containing three passengers was stopped by Customs Officers at Cheriton. GRO said that he travelled once a month; Brendan Horton said that he travelled three times a year; Gary Elsey said that he travelled 20 times a year, and was visiting Sollac, a French national steel company. The passengers said that they were in the recycling business with RPX. Together they had £ 445 and 7565 Euros; they were allowed to proceed with the cash.
- (f) The surveillance operation ceased with the arrest of GRO on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2003.



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(g) Mr Page was at no stage a target of either Customs & Excise investigation, although his identity as the Sub Postmaster at Rugeley was known as from 12<sup>th</sup> December 2002.

Arrangements are currently being made for Counsel to review all the material held by HM Customs and Excise in Birmingham. This has been delayed due to sick leave, but every effort is being made to enable Counsel to view the material in the near future.

Yours faithfully

**GRO**

Debbie Helszajn  
Senior Lawyer  
Criminal Law Division

deborah.helszajn: **GRO**

