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Mr Rob G Wilson
Head of Criminal Law
Criminal Law Division
Legal Services
3rd Floor
6a Ecclestone Street
London
SW1W 9LT

Our ref TJJ POS001.268

Your ref CRM 265934
JMCF RGW/dmt

30 June 2011

Dear Mr Wilson

Regina v Alison Loraine Hall
Leeds Crown Court - Plea and Case Management Hearing - 30 June
2011

I write in relation to the above matter and further to your discussions with prosecuting Counsel Mr Adrian Chaplin.

Following discussions Mr Chaplin had with Defence Counsel Neil Clarke, it was indicated that the Defendant Alison Hall would plead Not Guilty to Count 1 but Guilty to Count 2 Fraud. That plea would be entered on the basis that she was fully aware of her contractual obligations to pay any shortfall. She had not stolen money but in order to delay the inevitably she had falsely reported the figures concerning cash on hand and the loss in this matter was £14,842.37. This was discussed with the investigator Chris Knight who confirmed a plea to Count 2 on that basis would be acceptable. One point that was made clear was the Prosecution would not accept any criticism or blame concerning the Horizon System. In fairness, that did not appear to form any part of the Defendant's case.

The Judge, His Honour Judge Burn following submissions from the Defence agreed to stand the case down until after lunch to allow the Probation to prepare a stand down Pre Sentence Report to make recommendations for a community based penalty. The case was adjourned until 2:00 p.m.

Mr Chaplin had opened the case in the morning session and simply set out the Crown's position concerning Proceeds of Crime and compensation before the Judge moved to sentence. Further an application for costs was made in an amount not exceeding £1,800.00.

Following submissions made directly to the Judge by the Probation Service and then by Defence Counsel, Ms Hall who was a lady of no previous convictions was sentenced to 120 hours unpaid work. The Judge not surprisingly rejected Probation's suggestion that a conditional discharge was an appropriate disposal.

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The Judge found that the benefit figure and the available amount was set at £14,842.37. A compensation order was made by way of confiscation in the sum of £14,842.37. That amount must be paid within 12 months to Royal Mail Group Ltd. The term in default of payment is a minimum sentence of 6 months imprisonment.

The Judge made an Order for costs in the sum of £1,000.00 which also must be paid within 12 months.

The Judge ordered that Count 1 should lie on the file in the usual terms.

This brings the case of Alison Hall to a conclusion. I will be in touch in the near future concerning our costs. I take this opportunity to thank you for your instructions in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Tracey J Langan
O'GARRAS

CC: Chris Knight - Investigator

BY FAX AND HARD COPY

GRO