

Staff in Confidence

Internal memo



To: Andy Hayward
Senior Security Manager

From: Graham Ward
Financial Investigator
Fraud Strand

Date: 17th December 2009

**SUBJECT: Financial Investigation case closure: Ref: POLTD/0809/0126
Astwood Bank Post Office® - Julian WILSON**

The loss to Post Office® Ltd in this case was £27,811.28 which related to an audit shortage identified on the 11th September 2008 at Astwood Bank Branch Post Office® (346/246). During PACE interviews with Post Office® Ltd Investigators, Mr Wilson denied theft but made admissions to falsifying the office accounts over a 5 year period.

A Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) 2002 Financial Investigation was initiated with a restraint order against the suspects identified assets being obtained on the 17th December 2008 at Croydon Crown Court.

A Post Office® prosecution ensued and on the 15th June 2009 at Worcester Crown Court, the defendant pleaded guilty to 2 Fraud Act charges. The case was adjourned for sentencing to the 3rd August 2009, where on that date; the defendant was sentenced to 200 hours Community Service. A POCA 2002 confiscation timetable was also set at this time.

On the 14th December 2009 at Hereford Crown Court, the POCA 2002 confiscation investigation was concluded and a confiscation order was obtained, details as follows;

- The defendants 'Benefit from Crime' figure was agreed at **£28,434.95** (identified loss + the amount of £622.97 from the RPI increase)
- The Available amount was agreed at – 'not less than' £40,497.00
- A Confiscation Order was set for the amount of **£28,434.95** with full amount awarded to Post Office® Ltd as compensation; to be paid within 6 months or a default sentence of 12 months imprisonment will be imposed.

Prosecution costs of £3,500.00 were also awarded to be paid by the 3rd August 2009.

The Confiscation order will be enforced by the Birmingham RART (Regional Asset Recovery Team), who in due course will pay the sum of **£28,434.95** via BACS transfer to the Post Office® Investigation Team Recovery Account, following which a discharge of the Restraint Order will be obtained.

A 102% recovery on this case is therefore expected in due course.

Graham Ward

Accredited Financial Investigator - Post Office Ltd Security Team

STD: GRO

cc – Paul Southin, Gary Thomas, Jackie Whitham – Agent Debt Team