

Summary of Tape Recorded Interview



Person Interviewed Janet Louise SKINNER (JS)

Place of Interview Bransholme Police Station
Hull

Date of Interview 1st June 2006

Time commenced 14.12 hours
Time concluded 14.56

Duration of interview 44 minutes
Tape reference no 043367

Interviewing Officer(s) Diane MATTHEWS (DM)
Stephen BRADSHAW (SB)

Other persons present

Exhibit No:
Number of pages: 16

Signature of
interviewing officer

Tape counter times	Person speaking	Text
0.00	SB	Rec cautioned Legal rights CS001 resigned at 14.13 hours
	JS	You asked if there was still shortages and there was still shortages in Katherine Ayres stock unit
	DM	When was that
	JS	December. That shortage was there all the time she was

Summary of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

		on sick
	DM	How much was it for was that the £1,400
	JS	Yes
	DM	Was that shown in the accounts
	JS	Yes
3.49	DM	On this one from November to December you have got a gain of £178
	DM	So there is no shortage declared
	JS	Yeah I know because I didn't declare it. She was paying it back at £10 a week then she would, in the safe at work there was a white Lisahally bag and in that bag it contained Katherines pieces of paper with all her shortages on. What she added up, when she paid it off she put a tick on it and add the money in it. Now that bag has gone. Now I have searched the office for it the other day and I cannot find that bag and that had all the bits of paper in when she had been ticking off money or when she had been putting money back into the bag or when she had been taking it back out of the bag. So if her son walks up to the counter and said mam can you lend me £20, she was giving him the £20 but what I didn't know was she was knocking it off the piece of paper cos I found this bag the other month and I tried to find it the other day and I couldn't find it.
	DM	She had accepted that the shortage for one reason or another was in her stock and she agreed to pay it back at £10 whatever a week

Summary of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

	JS	Yes
	DM	That money was going in a Lisahally bag in the safe along with some form of a record what was paid back
	JS	Yes
	DM	Right, that £1,400 when did that, when did she have that loss
5.24	JS	Not last November, the November of the year before
	DM	So November 2004
	JS	Yes
	DM	So from November 2004, when you were on weekly cash accounts, have you shown that £1,400
	JS	No
5.37	DM	What have you been doing with that £1,400
	JS	She was just adding it as if she had it there
	DM	She was adding it
	JS	Yes
	DM	Was that under your instructions to do that
	JS	Well I said to her she had to clear it and she said I haven't got it. So she said can I just add it onto my cash and I said yes but it needs to be cleared because if I get an audit, its going be my who gets into trouble not you and then Theresa balanced £494 short but I shown that shortage because it seemed a lot not to shown so I shown that.
5.57	DM	Why did £498 seem a lot not to show but £1,400 wasnt
	JS	Because she had only been in for 1 day
	DM	Who had

Summary of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

	JS	Theresa
	DM	But you only have to serve for 10 minutes and you can make a mistake
	JS	Its just that they asked me to show it show the shortage to see if an error notice came back for it
	DM	Who asked you to show it
	JS	Theresa did
	DM	What was different between that one and the £1,400
	JS	Because it was a mistake that she had made over a couple of weeks
6.38	DM	Do you believe that was a mistake or do you believe it a loan of money
	JS	I don't believe it was a mistake
	DM	So you think she loaned some money
	JS	Yes because she was too easy to take the £10 here and put the £10 back
	DM	Did you ask her if she had taken the money
	JS	Yes
	DM	And what did she say
6.58	JS	Im not that sort of person and cried
	DM	So did you give her any authority to borrow £1,400
	JS	No
	DM	But if this is going back to November 2004, as you have indicated with the £7,500 in January you said that you spread that between the £10 and £20
	JS	Yes
	DM	And to cover the loss not to show it in your account and

Summary of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

		here we have got a £1,400 that is being covered up in the same way is that correct
	SB	Yes
	DM	If that is being covered up by Katherine Ayres is she working under your instructions to do that until she pays until the £1,400 in that Lisahally bag and to put it back in
	JS	Yes
	DM	Did you know that was wrong
	JS	Yes I did
	DM	And that to falsifying an accounting document like Steve said earlier is a criminal offence
7.54	JS	Well I dint know but
	DM	And we have already discussed the reason for the balance and how you deal with your losses and gains
8.06	JS	Yeah I know but she just expected me to pay it back
	DM	But if you cant pay it back we do have procedures in place for you to contact somebody. Did you contact somebody over the £1,400
	JS	No.
	DM	Lets just go to this £1,400, when did Katherine Ayres go off sick
8.28	JS	June 2005
	DM	So from Nov 04 to June 05 was £1,400
	JS	Still outstanding
	DM	Still being added
	JS	Yes
	DM	When she went off sick in June, is she paid when she is off

Summary of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

		sick
	JS	Paid Statuary sick pay
	DM	Not full pay. Was she full time
	JS	At the time she was doing 31 hours now she is doing 25, 26
	DM	So on 31 hours how much would she earn
	JS	£130
	DM	When she was being off sick was any money being added to the Lisahally bag
	JS	No, she didn't come near the office SB discusses the repayment of money into the Lisahally bag.
	SB	Katherine Ayres couldn't pay it back all in one go, she was paying back so much each week £10 or £20
14.15	JS	Yes
	SB	She was inflating the cash on your instructions
	JS	Yes
	SB	To cover the shortage
	JS	Yes
	SB	This £10 or £20 was going in the bag
	JS	Yes
	SB	She went sick in June
	JS	Yes
	SB	7 months later which is 28 weeks. So even allowing for taking a bit back there is £200. What happened to that £200 she had paid back
15.04	JS	There was nothing in the bag

Summary of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

	SB	So what I just cant work out is you have got somebody paying money back to you because your responsible at the end of the day its your cash out of your pocket that should of made that loss good
	JS	Yes
	SB	She is paying you back £10 a week , £20 a week
	JS	She was paying it back to herself
	SB	You have got £1,400, so in November 05 sorry November 04 you have got £1,400 that hadn't been paid back. When did you make that good
	JS	It hasn't
	SB	So it hasn't has it
	JS	No
15.45	SB	So between November 04 and June 05 how long was she off for
	JS	She came back Christmas week. She came back as her sick pay ran out
		SB Discussion over sick payment takes place
	SB	What losses occurred between November 04 and June 05 when she was off
	JS	Not a great deal
	SB	So she had £1,400 then nothing done between that time
	JS	They just balanced themselves off up and down
	SB	But nothing major
	JS	No
	SB	There is £1,400 November, Then Nov 04 to June 05 ok. June 05 to Dec 05 what were the balances like

Summary of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

	JS	Still not too bad
	SB	Not too bad because the person you mistrusted was still off so was ok then. Then between Dec 05 and May 06 you have a discrepancy of give or take a little bit of £59,000
17.46	JS	Yes
	SB	£1,400 each and every account since November 04 till you found your first loss in January 06 is covered, that has been inflated
	JS	Yes
	SB	So for over 12 months you have inflated your cash and falsified documents
	JS	Yes
	SB	So the £7,500 wasn't £7,500 going missing in January was it as you already had £1,400 and whatever other ones you hadn't bothered telling us about that you have had a loss between November 04 and Jan 06 isnt it
17.58	JS	Yes
	SB	I don't think you have made any losses good
	JS	Yes I have
	SB	When was the last time you made a loss good
	JS	I don't know
	SB	How much was it for
	JS	I cant remember
	SB	Was it during last year
	JS	Yes
		Discussion on losses takes place
	SB	By your own admission you have not made your shortages

Summary of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

		good £1,400 has been outstanding since Nov 04
	JS	But it wasn't my outstanding shortage
	SB	Sorry, who is the subpostmistress, who is responsible for making the losses good
20.39	JS	That is the only thing that im bothered about. You can investigate me as much as you want I don't care I have got nothing to hide you can search my house you can rip it apart you can do the same with my bank account for the past 5 years I have nothing to hide what so ever. The only thing that bothers me is the fact that somebody going to be held responsible for that and that someone is me
	DM	And why is it going to be you
	JS	Because it should have been my responsibility and it should have been something I dealt with in the beginning and I know that and that goes through my head every day. And if I could answer for that sort of money I would answer. I know that I can prove I haven't stolen any money. I aint a thief
21.00	SB	How do we know you haven't stolen that money
	JS	I know I haven't. I can sleep at night knowing I haven't
	SB	We have got £59,000 shortage in your accounts. You have offered no explanation as to where that moneys gone. You have got a £1,400 loss, everything is hunky dory for 12 months
	JS	No it isn't hunky dory, I couldn't force the woman to pay the money that she didn't have cos that's all it is I couldn't force her she didn't have the money all she kept saying was she

Summary of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

		didn't have the money
	SB	But you rewarded her by giving her the keys to come into the office
	JS	Yeah I know only because the customers were complaining that I was arriving at work late
	DM	Let me just. We have to start off with £7,500 and see how we get to £59,000 because we need to know
	JS	I don't know how it got to £59,000
22.28	DM	So you say it went to £9,500
	JS	It just kept going up
	DM	You were in branch trading and you say you only declare your cash once a month
	JS	Yes
	DM	So if that's January, £7,500 and February £9,500 what was March
	JS	It just kept going up
22.41	DM	Well it's like Steve has said it's £50,000 March, April May in 3 cash accounts £50,000 its like £18,000 a month
	JS	Yeah I know
	DM	When you realise these figures were getting out of control what did you do
	JS	Started throwing up, just felt physically sick
	DM	But what did you do in terms of
	JS	Look I know I am , that I have to take responsibility, the only thing that I will take ,I will take responsibility for my own negligence for not doing anything about it but I will not take responsibility for the safe

Summary of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

	DM	It's like we explained, we are here to find the truth, we are here to find the facts of what has gone on at an office that has lost nearly £60,000 in 5 months
	JS	Yeah I know
	DM	It's an awful lot of money
	JS	It's a flippin hell of a lot of money
	DM	And that's what we are after finding out, now we are asking you the question have you stolen the £60,000
	JS	No
	DM	Right, what's happened to it
23.33	JS	If I had an answer I would tell you
	DM	Why do you think it's Katherine Ayres. Do you think Katherine Ayres has taken £60,000. If you haven't taken it somebody has. Would you agree with that
	JS	Yes
	DM	Somebody has taken £60,000
	JS	Somebody has taken the money. Money does not and I tell you how I feel. I feel like I have been putting the money in the safe and someone has been taking it out of the back. That's how I feel
	DM	What have you done to stop that happening
24.10	JS	Nothing
	DM	Right would you agree that some of the responsibility for the money going, although you haven't stolen it you have done nothing to stop it either
	JS	I know
	DM	And the person you deem responsible you have given keys

Summary of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

		too. They have got the run of the office. There is nothing stopping them from coming in taking £20,000 then running back home and putting it in there house, there only across the road.
	JS	Its like anybody friend and everybody says don't trust anybody. The only two people I do trust are Theresa Holmes and Colleen Kates and it's purely because I took them for 2 other offices. We have worked together before
	DM	Why didn't you let them have the keys
	JS	Because Colleen was on the sick
	DM	And what about the other girl
	JS	Theresa didn't work the hours for opening, she only works 16 hours
	DM	If it was me, this was my office and I was seeing money walk out of that safe and you haven't got a clue, in my mind I know ive not taken it so they have got to be, money just doesn't disappear there has got to be a reason and the first thing I would do is get the keys of her
25.32	JS	I didn't mind coming here or coming without anyone with me or come here without a solicitor because I know that I didn't physically take that money. This is why I don't mind being here, I know that I am not a thief
	DM	But where is it
25.41	JS	I really don't know
	DM	Because who do you think is now responsible for paying it back
	JS	It's going to be me innit. Its me who responsible for it, but I

Summary of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

		have to prove the fact that I haven't got that money
	DM	But what evidence have you got to say Katherine's had it
	JS	I haven't, I haven't got any evidence for anybody
	DM	Has Katherine spent an awful lot of money lately
	JS	I don't know because she was off sick but the only thing she said to me in December when she came back she needed to earn over £100 because she had no money because she had been on sick. Now 4 weeks she came in and gave me £500 to take off her £1,400 shortage
	JS	I put it back into the cash JS talks about where the white bag in
	SB	When they were on individual stocks how did they get the money
	JS	I transferred it in and out
	SB	So you transferred the money in and out and you kept control of the cash at the time in the individual stocks.
	JS	Yes
	SB	You now go onto one stock unit, the shared stock unit, what about the money
27.33	JS	They each, just in the safe, if they need it they get it.
	SB	So why are you changing all your procedures
	JS	Because I was short staffed. When Katherine went off sick and Theresa was on holiday I basically worked that office on my own so I had to take on somebody else but couldn't train them to put them on an individual stock unit
	SB	You have changed the system completely and suddenly lost £60,000 so how do we know you haven't stolen the

Summary of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

		money
	JS	You don't
	SB	Have you got something against Katherine
	JS	No
	SB	Because its her name that has kept repeated about all this money going
	JS	No its because its always been mistakes that shes made
	SB	So was the safe door always open
	JS	No they just put the key in turn the lock and unlock it
30.46	SB	And where were you
	JS	Depends if I was there or not. I only work half day Mon, Tues Wed and Thurs. I was off Friday and Saturday
	SB	So you really didn't work very much did you. You were basically a Part Time Subpostmistress
31.40	JS	No you cant really say that did you
	SB	Well half day Mon Tues Wed Thurs, with Fri Sat off
	JS	Pay someone to work it for me
	SB	Have you paid someone as an officer in charge
	JS	No you employ clerks to serve the customers and do what they want behind. So you have got no control what so ever within that Post Office. You don't know what goes on so for all this it could have been Katherine you were hardly there. You turned up late by your own admission
32.57	JS	Yeah
	SB	And you went home early, half day, you didn't do a full day
	JS	No
	SB	What time did you leave

Summary of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

	JS	2
	SB	So you were hardly there were you
	JS	No
	DM	Who did your ONCH each night
	JS	We didn't do the ONCH
		DM talks about visit with Diane Hoyles
	DM	Does any of the staff know what is going on
	JS	Yes sort off
	DM	What do you mean by sort of
34.05	JS	Well ive told . They know what is going on because the office is closed
	DM	But before that, before Diane and Julia came to your office, was any of the other people there aware that there was a shortage in the office that was being accounted for
	JS	Not that I know of no.
	DM	On the last branch trading statement trading statement 2 which is DM4 this covers the period 26 th April to 25 th May. I will just show you that. First of all is that your signature
	JS	Yes
	DM	£151.99 short so this was last week. Did you put the cheque in for that
	JS	I put cash in for it
	DM	So cash has gone in for it
	JS	Yes
35.56	DM	So when Steve said when was the last time you made a shortage good it would have been 25/5 because you have put that money back

Summary of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

	JS	Yes
	DM	Do you mind just reading out the cash on hand figure for me there
	JS	£65,045.85
	DM	Is that a true account of what cash was in your office last week
	JS	No
	DM	Why isn't it
	JS	Because the money was short
	DM	How much by
	JS	£40,000
	DM	So it was £40,000 short last Wednesday and between Wednesday and Tuesday of which you were only open Thursday Friday and half day Saturday there is another £20,000 gone. Did you keep a running total of how much short your office was
36.38	JS	(Quiet)
	DM	So that's in CC stock
	JS	Yes
	DM	So you declared the cash in CC £40,253.85 short
	JS	Yes
	DM	And that was the amount of the shortage within your office
	JS	Yes
	SB	When was your remittance delivered
	JS	Thursday afternoon
	DM	If I got your trading statements, I have got trading statements TP9 and TP2 so if I look here on C there is

Summary of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

38.26	JS	£3,664.01 declared, is that a shortage that has been
	JS	No that was there apart from the £1,400.
	DM	So the £1,400 is being overclaimed in the CC stock and that is part of the £3,664
	JS	Yes
	DM	So if I go back and get your trading statements that figure in CC is going to be what losses you were rolling
	JS	JS
	SB	And that has happened since November 04
	JS	Yes
	DM	Just to clarify what we have got here. Since November 04 up until the present time that you were subpostmistress at North Bransholme each and every week or every month since you have been on branch trading your cash has been inflated by an amount of money in order to not show the losses within your office
	JS	Yes
39.50	DM	And not to alert that there was a problem in your office is that fair
	JS	Hide the problem yes
	DM	You knew it was wrong to do that. You knew it was wrong to declare cash that you didn't have in your office
	JS	Yes
	SB	This £40,000 it only leaves £25,000 . How much do you normally get in in your rem
	JS	Oh not a great deal to be honest it is usually change
	SB	So on a Thursday what notes would you have got in

Summary of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

	JS	It depends £3000 or £4000
	SB	That leaves you with £28,000, cos you have got £40,000 inflated of which another £19,000 which leaves you with £9000 which if memory serves correctly they found £10,000 give or take a bit
40.46	JS	Do you know whats bothering me more I can remember a few months back, I cant remember which cash account it was but I can remember remming back £30,000
	DM	Have you had requests to send money back
	JS	Yes
	DM	Have you just ignored them because you didn't have any
	JS	No I have sent money back
	DM	Well because you have £60,000 that isn't there you are so far over target
41.32	JS	Yeah I know
	DM	That they are asking you for money to be sent back possibly large amounts substantial amounts of money
	JS	Yeah cos now it seems as if like less in
	DM	Did you realise you were getting quite close to the bone to not having money
	JS	Yes
	DM	What would have done if you would have had none
	JS	Well when Julia and Diane came in on Tuesday and said they wanted to do a check I told them, I basically told them because it needs to be sorted out
	DM	That's why obviously you are here today
	JS	Yeah it is. I do want it to be sorted out

Summary of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

Master Tape Seal 043367 signed
Tape ended at 14.56