

Message

From: Susan Crichton [GRO]

on
behalf
of

GRO

Sent: 17/09/2013 08:36:58

To: John M Scott [GRO]

CC: Jarnail A Singh [GRO]; Amanda A Brown [GRO]

Subject: RE: Emailing: Cleared Tyneside sub-postmaster urges Post Office to admit error - Journal Live.htm

This is the case – you were going to check the dates and detail why the delay in taking the case forward – Bis are now asking for the information today.

Susan Crichton I General Counsel

1st Floor, Central Wing, 148 Old Street, London, EC1V 9HQ

[GRO]

susan.crichton [GRO]



From: John M Scott

Sent: 30 August 2013 16:29

To: Susan Crichton

Cc: Jarnail A Singh; John M Scott

Subject: RE: Emailing: Cleared Tyneside sub-postmaster urges Post Office to admit error - Journal Live.htm

Susan.

I received the case papers for this investigation this morning and have completed a table top review from the Case File Event Log. The investigator is on leave for this and next week, so I'm unable to validate until their return.

Usual password for Second Sight

Happy to discuss.

Regards.

John.

From: Susan Crichton

Sent: 23 August 2013 16:05

To: John M Scott

Subject: FW: Emailing: Cleared Tyneside sub-postmaster urges Post Office to admit error - Journal Live.htm

John – could you add your info to this so that I can go back to BIS with all the details.

Thanks

Susan

From: Jarnail A Singh
Sent: 22 August 2013 14:36
To: Susan Crichton
Cc: Hugh Flemington
Subject: RE: Emailing: Cleared Tyneside sub-postmaster urges Post Office to admit error - Journal Live.htm

Susan

Here is draft response to Mike in the Thomas Brown case

1. This was a tricky investigation which suffered delay, the POL investigation officer had to enlist the assistance of the police, who appear not to prioritise the case despite the offer of assistance by the POL investigation officer .

I note that Counsel Simon Clarke from Cartwright King considered the delay in his Advice of 5th January 2012 and concluded that Brown would not have been prejudiced in the preparation of his defence given the admissions which he had made in his interview.

2. Brief Chronology in the Thomas Brown Case.

15th December 2008 – Interview

2nd August 2011 – Interview

5th January 2012 – Advice on Evidence by Simon Clarke

2nd October 2012 - First appearance at Newcastle Magistrates Court

11th December 2012 – Committal Hearing.

10th January 2013 – PCMH at Newcastle Crown Court – listed for trial 17th

June 2013. Relisted for trial 18th November 2013.

1st August 2013 – No Evidence Offered by Post Office.

3. Offence

1. Thomas George BROWN faced two charges of False Accounting, alleging that between the 29th February 2008 and the 25th November 2008 (charge 1) and between the 20th November 2008 and the 25th November 2008 (charge 2) he made false entries into Horizon so as to conceal a shortage of £85,426.80.

Prosecution case

4. Thomas George Brown was the Sub-Postmaster at the North Kenton Post Office Branch, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. He also owned the associated shop and employed a Post Office Manager and three other staff.

5. On the 25th November 2008 an audit was conducted at the North Kenton Post Office; this revealed a total shortage of £85,426.80.

In interview the Mr Brown indicated that he did not know how the losses arose and offered a number of speculative explanations. He admitted false accounting to hide the losses. He inflated the cash figures, none of the other staff did so;

– He had falsified the accounts – “*Yes yes guilty*”

6. The decision to discontinue this prosecution on public interest grounds were;

. Considered there would be no recovery of loss he is bankrupt,

. 5 years has passed since original short fall was identified on 25th November 2008 ,

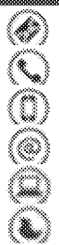
. cost of continuing prosecution

. Mr . Browns age he is 60 years old.

Please let me know if you require any more detail.

Jarnail

Jarnail Singh I Criminal Lawyer




148 Old Street, LONDON, EC1V 9HQ

GRO

Jarnail.a.singh@gro.gov.uk **GRO**

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From: Jarnail A Singh
Sent: 21 August 2013 15:39
To: Susan Crichton
Cc: Hugh Flemington
Subject: RE: Emailing: Cleared Tyneside sub-postmaster urges Post Office to admit error - Journal Live.htm

Susan

I have found Suzanne winter and Kevin's Ryan the investigation officers are absence on annual leave until 9th September. I need the investigation file of Thomas Brown urgently to advice delay between his suspension in 2008 and court proceedings in 2013? Unfortunately I do not have the green file; that has previously been returned to Maureen who is also on leave. In those circumstances I am unable to say why there was a delay between the first and second interview of over two and a half years. Nevertheless I note that Simon Clarke from CK considered the delay in his Advice of 5th January 2012 and concluded that Brown would not have been prejudiced in the preparation of his defence given the admissions which he had made in his interview.


I now find the green file is in Northern Ireland and Mike Whitehead is also on annual leave until Monday.

I will deal with this as soon I have the file.

P.S we have since spoken

Regards

Jarnail Singh I Criminal Lawyer



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GRO

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From: Susan Crichton
Sent: 21 August 2013 07:48
To: Jarnail A Singh
Cc: Hugh Flemington
Subject: Fw: Emailing: Cleared Tyneside sub-postmaster urges Post Office to admit error - Journal Live.htm

Jarnail - can you prepare a draft response to Mike today?
Thanks
Susan

From: Whitehead Mike (ShEx) [GRO]
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2013 08:35 AM
To: Susan Crichton; Martin Edwards
Cc: Batten Peter (ShEx) [GRO]; Gibson Will (ShEx) [GRO]
Subject: Emailing: Cleared Tyneside sub-postmaster urges Post Office to admit error - Journal Live.htm

<<Cleared Tyneside sub-postmaster urges Post Office to admit error - Journal Live.htm>>

Hi Susan and Martin

Useful to have more background about this case. The report refers both to the spm being 'cleared' and the case dropped by POL. Also what factors have led to 5 years elapsing between his suspension in 2008 and court proceedings in 2013?

Regards

Mike

Mike Whitehead
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[GRO]

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