

CASE FILE EVENTS LOG

OFFICE : RUGELEY MSPO WS15 2BE - 264 242

Date	Event
13.01.03	<p>1500 hrs, received telephone call form Marie Perry, informing me that Customs had arrested an outsider [GRO] and were looking to pursue the Sub Postmaster.</p> <p>Contacted Claire Damant (Customs) who informed me that [GRO] [GRO] had been seen to go into Rugeley Post Office at 0730 hours that morning, he was later arrested by Customs Officers as he attended another Bureau de Change facility in the Birmingham area. [GRO] had 584,000 Euro on him and a receipt from Rugeley Post Office dated 13.01.03 at 0838 hrs for a bureau transaction for £ 360,000 worth of Euros at an exchange rate of 1.62.</p> <p>The rate at the Post Office should have been 1.4752, [GRO] was about to cash them in at a rate of 1.53 making a immediate profit of £ 21,000.</p> <p>Brian Mathews from Customs made arrangements with Staffordshire Serious Crime Unit to arrest Sub Postmaster.</p> <p>Mandy Bushell routed to meet with Police at Rugeley Post office.</p> <p>Manish Patel en route from St Albans, Mr P Gerrish made aware of incident.</p> <p>Colin Price makes arrangements with Audit section (Glyn Burrows) to audit office on morning of 14.01.03.</p> <p>Staffordshire Police attended Rugeley Post Office approximately 1700 hours, informed SPMR (Mr Carl Page) had left office approximately 1500 hrs.</p> <p>Mandy Bushell & I attend Staffordshire Police HQ facility and liaise with DI Mark Abbotts and his team at which time I learn of a third individual (Driver) who was arrested with [GRO]</p> <p>Mr Pages whereabouts were unknown, however Police managed to make contact via mobile phone and Mr Page asked to attend</p>

	<p>Stafford Police station later that evening. Warrant for Post Office has been obtained and four Police Officers (D., Sgt Hughes), Mandy Bushell and myself attend Rugeley MSPO that evening. Met with Margaret Pearce (employee at Rugeley) who held keys for office and allowed access to office.</p> <p>M Bushell and I pointed out documents which required seizure, which were seized and documented by Police officers. Main safe and two sub safes opened, safe containing bureau till found to contain five (5) cheques to a total value of some £640,000.</p> <p>Following search, office secured and arrangements made for Audit team to attend office at 0745 hours. M Bushell and I offer assistance to Police to interview SPMR, however, Police state that only a very brief interview would take place that evening and therefore do not require us to stay.</p> <p>Mr Page interviewed briefly by Police that evening. All three subjects held overnight, searches of home addresses conducted by Police.</p>
14.01.03	<p>Mandy Bushell & I met with Audit team (4) at Rugeley MSPO 0730 hours. Met up with Margaret Pearce and two other employees and gained entry to Post Office which remained closed for business that day.</p> <p>Full audit conducted.</p> <p>Mr Mark Irvin attended office at 0830 hours.</p> <p>Mandy Bushell takes statement from Margaret Pearce.</p> <p>Manish Patel attends Staffordshire Police HQ to attend meeting with Police, agreed that Post Office would take charge of investigation and any resulting prosecution, Police to assist with Financial Investigations etc. Informed by Police that [GRO]</p> <p>[GRO]</p> <p>MP returns Rugeley MSPO.</p> <p>Contact made with Mr R G Wilson (Head of Criminal Law), apprised of situation.</p> <p>MP makes contact with Stafford Police Station Custody suite and speaks with Mr Carl Page via telephone; he is advised that on the authority of Mr Irvin (RLM), I was suspending his contract for services pending a full investigation. Mr Irvin then spoke with Mr page regarding appointing an interim SPMR which was</p>

	<p>agreed.</p> <p>MP takes statement from Shirly Batey (employee who normally operates the Bureau de Change)</p> <p>Audit completed and office short by £ 645,345.18 (having not taken the five Bureau cheques into account for £640K)</p> <p>MB & MP attend Stafford Police Station and meet up with DC Chris Andrews & Lisa, Interviewing officers who had interviewed Mr Page previously and the driver, [GRO] Informed that [GRO] was bailed [GRO] did not allow him to be further interviewed. Bailed to Cannock Police Station on 24th February 2003 at 1200 hrs. Driver also Bailed to Cannock Police station on 24th February 2003 at 1000 hrs.</p> <p>Following disclosure to Mr Pages Solicitor, DC Andrews and myself conduct interview of Mr Page. Mr Page later bailed to return to Stafford Police station on 4th March 2003.</p>
15.01.03	<p>Mr Mark Irvin requested by Mandy Bushell to collect exhibits from Staffordshire Police HQ, I discussed with Police regarding the presentation of the five seized Cheques.</p> <p>Mr R Wilson consulted about the decision to process the five cheques, it was agreed that as four of them related to the £ 360K transaction of 13.01.03 and the equivalent in Euros was held by the Police that these cheques would not be presented. Agreed that the 5th cheque for £ 278,000 should be presented.</p> <p>Mr Irvin requested to present £ 278,000 cheque to Co Op Bank in Stafford for express clearance.</p> <p>DI Abbots spoken to by myself regarding freezing accounts but was informed that this was not possible unless Post charge or imminent charge.</p> <p>Mandy Bushell (PM) made me aware that she had taken a call from a lady in Chesterfield who had informed her that they had received three (3) cheques (100K, 91K & 87K) all from bureau transactions conducted at Rugeley over the Christmas 2002 period which had been "Payment Stopped", Lady at Chesterfield was asked to contact me.</p> <p>MP (St Albans), spoke with Elaine Lievensley who faxed me copies of the three cheques and made me aware of two further</p>

	<p>cheques to the value of £ 184,000 which were in the system also being returned to the Post Office.</p> <p>Appraised Mr P Gerrish of situation who suggested that advice should be sought from Civil Litigation regarding the freezing of Bank Accounts and assets.</p> <p>Spoke with Mr Joe Ashton (Head of Civil Litigation) who put me in touch with Mrs Bidy Wyles (Senior Lawyer) and meeting arranged for Thursday morning (0930 Croydon)</p> <p>Mr Michael Cooksey (Investigation Manager) contacted and requested to collect exhibits from Mr M Irvin that evening.</p> <p>Interim report compiled by MP and e-mailed to Civil Litigation, Criminal Law & Phil Gerrish.</p>
16.01.03	<p>MP meets with M Cooksey at 0700 hrs (15a) and collects exhibits which are driven to Impact House Croydon.</p> <p>Mandy Bushell obtains statements from Mr Mark Irvin & Mr James Coney (RLM's)</p> <p>MP's Affidavit prepared by Bidy Wyles and Colin Fenny.</p> <p>Further copies of five cheques faxed to Croydon by Elaine from Chesterfield.</p> <p>Mr Tony Utting requested to extract and copy portions of Bureau till role from Mid December 2002 to 13.01.03 relating to Whitehouse transactions. Mr Utting then prepares excel spreadsheet with above transactions shown.</p> <p>Bank account details received via fax from Dc Andrews who was with Customs & Excise.</p> <p>Mr Hugh Stacey attends Civil Litigation office to explain how First rate and Post Office deal with Currency.</p> <p>Raj Kalsi contacted who provides the preferential exchange rates for Euro's on the days requested as per schedule which is updated by MP and used in Affidavit.</p> <p>Jackie (ChaD - Hemel) contacted and asked to provide figures for the delivery of Euros to Rugeley MSPO over a 1 year period.</p> <p>Arrangements made to meet with Claire Damant (Customs) on Friday afternoon.</p>

17.01.03	<p>1st Affidavit sworn (am) and faxed to Civil Litigation, however slight amendments were then required and arrangements made to attend Croydon.</p> <p>Fax received from Laurie Hutchins (ChaD) with all Euro deliveries to Rugeley since 16.01.02 to 13.01.03. Meeting with Customs & Excise in London (Claire Damant)</p> <p>MP attends Croydon and new affidavit (2nd) sworn in and original left with Joe Ashton.</p> <p>Mr P Gerrish appraised of current status.</p>
20.01.03	<p>MP advised by Bidy Wyles that further amendments required in Affidavit therefore a 3rd draft prepared. Bidy also requests further Exchange rates for receipts found on GRO person at time of arrest.</p> <p>Raj Kalsi requested to obtain exchange rate info. From First rate. Figures telephoned through to MP and supplied to Bidy who included them in new schedule.</p> <p>MP arranges with Customs & Excise to Meet Wednesday 22nd January 2003 in Birmingham (Police unable to attend).</p> <p>MP Attends High Court 1530 hours, Judge Grants Freezing orders for RPX Recycled Plastics, GRO & Mr Page up to £ 640,000.00.</p> <p>3rd Affidavit sworn in by MP, original with Bidy Wyles.</p> <p>Bidy Wyles Faxes orders to Banks that evening.</p> <p>Tony Marsh & Phil Gerrish appraised of Freezing orders.</p>

