



**Summary of Tape  
Recorded Interview**

Person Interviewed Janet Louise SKINNER (JS)

Place of Interview Bransholme Police Station  
Hull

Date of Interview 1<sup>st</sup> June 2006

Time commenced 13:26 hours  
Time concluded 14.10 hours

Duration of interview 44 minutes  
Tape reference no 043366

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

Other persons present

Exhibit No:  
Number of pages: 13  
  
Signature of interviewing officer producing exhibit

Tape counter times	Person speaking	Text
0.00		Introductions Cautioned Caution explained CS001 signed at 13.28 hours CS003 signed at 13.31 hours Solicitor declined 043707 and 043409 tapes seals for tapes that were faulty. JS confirms these were sealed in her presence

## Summary of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

5.03	DM	I just want to go over your experience in the Post Office and specifically at North Bransholme. How long have you been at that office
	JS	Started the 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2003 I think it was
	DM	What capacity
5.21	JS	I was the Manager, I was taken on as the manager
	DM	Was the office owned by someone else at the time
	JS	Yes Caroline was the manager at that time
	DM	Had you had any previous experience of working in a Post Office prior to this
5.55	JS	JS explains her working history at United News owned Post Offices which started in February 1995 at as a counter clerk includes spells at Orchard Park ,Kingston Road 1998 as assistant manager, Dalsetter Rise as Manager, Spring Cottage as Manager. And Bodmin Road as manager. JS states she has been the Manager at North Bransholme since she started there. JS explains in May 2004 she became temporary Subpostmisstress at North Bransholme and Bodmin Road.
10.15	DM	So you have quite a lot of experience of running a Post office and using the Horizon system
	JS	I was the first one in Hull to get training on it
	DM	Were you, so you're the expert round here are you
	JS	Yes
	DM	So would it be fair to say that you are happy with how to run an office and the procedures

## Summary of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

	JS	Yes
	DM	And obviously the Horizon system
	JS	Yes
	DM	In your opinion what is the reason for doing a balance at an office
10.41	JS	To make sure that the books correspond and to make sure that everything is correct
	DM	So its also a fair assumption to give a record of everything that is held in the office and the transactions undertaken in that particular week.
11.00	JS	Yes
	DM	What is your procedure in your contract for dealing with losses and gains
	JS	I have to cover the losses and gains
	DM	Ok so lets just say that you have a £50 over what would you do, what would your contract say you can do with the £50
	JS	We usually do, if it was over we would put it in a bag and it would stay in the safe. If we get an error notice back it would be cleared with it.
	DM	So you would remove that money from the till
	JS	Yes
	DM	Again what if it was a similar amount short
	JS	Then if the money was there to put back we would use the money that was over if is is a large amount I would have to put it back myself with a cheque.
	DM	So you would make your losses good

## Summary of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

	JS	Yes
	DM	And you can remove any gains as per your contract
	JS	Yes
11.53	DM	DM Recaps on the events of previous 2 days, 30 <sup>th</sup> and 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2006 and the reason for the interview JS confirms the statement by Diane Hoyle was an accurate account of the events and that it is her signature on the statement. DM reads statement out. Audit on May 31 <sup>st</sup> covered Notebook entry by SB read out regarding arrangements made for JS to attend a voluntary interview. Legal rights explained. JS confirms it is an accurate account of the conversation.
15.28	DM	So the audit took place and the result was an overall shortage of £59,175.39. The breakdown of that is the cash element £58,942.41 short. The stock was £292.27 short and your postage was a surplus of £59.29. Giving an overall shortage of £59,175.39. Are you happy with that
	JS	No im not happy at all.
	DM	Do you accept that that is probably, I don't know if that was the figure that you were expecting
	JS	No I wernt
	DM	You have indicated £40,000
	JS	Its just been going up and up and up for the past 5 months.

## Summary of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

16.41	DM	Do you want to give us your account of why there is over £59,000 short in your account.
	JS	If I had the answer I would give you it but I haven't. It started of £7,500 and its just basically gone up and to be honest I just thought that whoever was taking it would be putting it back. I mean I can prove to you, im here because I want to prove that I am innocent. If you want to search my house you can, if you want to search my banks you can. I have nothing to hide what so ever, I am not a thief.
	DM	When you said you had a shortage of £7,500 when was that
	JS	Back in January this year
	DM	Right just go back to this one instance first of all. You have got a shortage of £7,500, did you complete the balance that night
17.43	JS	Yes
	DM	Does your office have individual stock units
	JS	It did we were running on individual stock units up until June last year. That was because one of the women went on sick and it was mainly because of that person that we were on individual stock units because their stock unit was always, well, the balancing was always really bad it was sometimes over £100 and we had customers coming back saying she had short changed them of £100 and in one week we had 3 customers saying that she had short changed them off £100.

## Summary of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

18.02 DM And who was this  
JS [GRO] So that's why it went onto individual to start with. But when she went on sick basically there was only me and [GRO] and [GRO].  
Theresa went on holiday for 2 weeks, [GRO] went on sick so it only left me and [GRO] so it was just impossible to keep it on individual. Which is why we moved

DM OK so in January we have got this £7,500 loss. Just try and recap as much as you can to what happened when you balanced and you found that shortage.

18.18 JS I was in the early hours the next morning and I didn't roll over that night, I went in the next morning and rechecked everything, got everything rechecked and it was still the same

DM And who was in that week  
JS Me, [GRO], [GRO] and [GRO]  
DM So she was back off sick leave  
JS Yes

19.20 JS She came back in December but her unit was always short anyway  
DM Right what do the staff have to make good their own losses  
JS Yes unless they have balanced under and ive balanced over then we would give it because it could have been something that had been passed wrong but everything that was given to them and everything that was given to

## Summary of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

		me was checked by me or by them. But her stock unit was wrong anyway.
20.03	DM	So this £7,500 what stock unit was it in
	JS	It was showing up in AA because that's the main stock unit we were all using then.
	DM	Right so it was a shared stock and everyone was using AA.
	JS	Yes
	DM	What was the shortage in
	JS	Cash
	DM	And what did you do
20.14	JS	I just made the cash look like it was correct
	DM	And how did you do that
	JS	Just by making it as if it was there but it wasn't and then had a word with one of the girls I worked with and she went off sick
	DM	Who was that
	JS	<span style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 2px;">GRO</span>
		JS goes on to explain that this was a planned absence <span style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 2px;">GRO</span>
		<span style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 2px;">GRO</span> . JS explained to <span style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 2px;">GRO</span> there was a loss but not the amount.
	DM	So you made your cash look like you had £7,500 more
	JS	Yes
	DM	What denomination did you add it onto
21.24	SB	Did you inflate it by just the full amount in one denomination or did you spread it amongst denominations
	JS	Well I just spread it between £10 and £20

## Summary of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

21.34	DM	Why did you do that instead of showing the loss
	JS	Because it was a £7,500 loss and it's not something im in a position to make right and to be fair and I know it sounds stupid and ive never been in that position before never. JS explains that her first few weeks at Bodmin Road were terrible with big losses.
	DM	With this £7,500 what benefit is it to hide it rather than show it
	JS	I thought that whoever was taking it was putting it back.
	SB	Why would you think that
	DM	Because ive never been in that position before. Ive never ever had a balance show a large amount of money and the only physical way that sort of money could of not been there is if it has been removed from there.
	SB	But if somebody stolen £7,500, why would they put it back.
	JS	I don't know
	SB	Why would you think that they were going to put it back.
	JS	I don't know stupidity, I really don't know. I wish I did know
	DM	What made you think that somebody had taken it as opposed to a mistake being made
	JS	Because that amount of money just doesn't go missing.
23.12	DM	Did you phone anyone up
	JS	No
	DM	So if you have not been in that position before why didn't you phone and get advice

## Summary of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

	JS	Beacause all I could think of was if I was having to pay, because of the fact that I have to cover the shortages and the gains I were the one who has to be responsible for it.
	DM	But by adding it onto your cash when it wasn't there, do you think that was responsible.
23.45	JS	No
	DM	Did you know it was wrong to do that
	JS	Yeah its defrauding isn't it
	DM	Its falsifying an accounting document and falsifying what is in the office after you have already said the reason for the balance
	SB	Did you know it was a criminal offence to falsify your accounts.
	JS	Yes like ive said it sounds daft really. It's a large amount of money and I hope it gets found. I can be investigated in any way and I have nothing to hide. Discussion takes place to decide when office went into branch trading
	DM	So the next week what happened at the balance
	JS	It was the same short again
	DM	And what did you do with the cash
	JS	I falsified it on again
	SB	You say by the same what do you mean the same. How much was it out the following week.
	JS	£9,500
	SB	So it wasn't the same then was it
25.25	JS	No

## Summary of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

	DM	It was an extra £2,000
	SB	Gone up by another £2,000
	JS	It just kept going up
	SB	OK lets take it in stages. You have just had your first loss of £7,500 in the January and the following week it's gone up to £9,500 so £7,500 is the previous loss so your have rolled that loss forward and you have ended up with
	JS	another £2,000 loss
		Yes
25.54	SB	Just to go back to what you said a few minutes ago that when the £7,500 went missing you thought whoever was taking it would put it back so now you have got within a week you have 2 instances where £7,500 went and then another £2,00 gone
	JS	Yes
	SB	What did you think then that the person was going to put that back
	JS	To be honest really I have just, yeah I did. Ive never been in this
	SB	What staff was in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> week
	JS	The same
	SB	So you have the same staff and 2 instances. What was said to the staff
27.30	JS	Just to keep their eyes open really because mistakes were being made
	SB	And what did they say
27.41	JS	They just said they would. I said that shortages were

## Summary of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

		going by and they just needed to be careful of what they were doing and to keep their eyes and ears open basically
	SB	So do you believe the shortages have occurred by the staff being incompetent and handing it out to customers
	JS	I would say its been confident its not been handed out to customers because there have many times that customers have come back and they have been short changed so if it was being handed out they wouldn't come back and say they have been short changed. Discussion about the customers returning to complain takes place.
	SB	When you were on individual stock units, how was the balancing within the office
29.24	JS	Quite good actually. It was up and down but it was usually in <input type="text" value="GRO"/> or ours that she had given me something back or we had not given her it back.
29.36	SB	So why in January did you not go back to individual balancing
	JS	Because I was short staffed at the time
	JS	There has been an incident a few weeks back ive gone in on Sat afternoon. Ive basically gone in to do to sort the popos out because I was having a week off and I checked the draws before I left and there was money stuffed in a draw underneath a card
	SB	Could you trace that back to someone
30.32	JS	Who had been there was <input type="text" value="GRO"/> and <input type="text" value="GRO"/>

## Summary of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

SB	And who was in charge when you were off
JS	<b>GRO</b> but she came back from <b>GRO</b> on the Friday came to work on the Monday and then she was only there that week then off on holiday.
DM	Who has keys for your office
JS	I have them on a Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday, <b>GRO</b> always has a set as she is listed as a key holder as she lives 2 minutes across the road. The other set goes between <b>GRO</b> and <b>GRO</b> .
DM	When you said <b>GRO</b> has a set of keys, does she have the safe keys
JS	Yes and door keys
DM	So if you suspected <b>GRO</b> of taking this money, why did you let her have keys
JS	Because she was literally 2 minutes across the road
DM	But if she is taking the money, that your going to have to be responsible for, why let her have a set of safe keys
JS	When <b>GRO</b> came back for the week that I was off, <b>GRO</b> refused to let her have any keys because, I don't know why but she is not having the keys.
31.58	SB Your in charge, you have got one member of staff saying she is not letting another member of staff have keys. If this member of staff is the one you suspect of pinching the money of you but you still as <b>GRO</b> said to you, you still insist on giving her a set of keys and basically the run of the office.
JS	Yeah

## Summary of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

SB Its like letting a kid loose in a sweet factory isn't it  
JS I know but its because, I live at the other end of Hull, I  
always tend to end up getting there late and that's the  
reason why ive always let her have the keys. She always  
had the keys before I went there

32.32 SB What time do you normally get in  
JS I am meant to be there at 8.15 but I don't normally start till  
8.30 by the time I get there  
SB So its only 15 minutes. What time does the office open  
JS 8.30  
SB What time does [GRO] get in  
JS One morning she was there at 8.10 and another it didn't  
open till 9.  
SB Why not change your hours, put it forward or leave the  
house earlier. Why do you suspect [GRO]

33.15 JS She has been, when I first took the office as manager  
when I took it off Caroline Rand the first thing I was ever  
told was to watch her because she is not to be trusted.  
For what reasons I don't know. I know she was  
investigated whilst working for [GRO] I know it was  
to do with money but I don't know what for. She was  
cleared and reinstated but it is basically what people have  
said just don't trust her, she cant be trusted. She doesn't  
really divulge anything about her life but a few months  
ago [GRO]  
[GRO], I said to her the next day [GRO]  
[GRO]. She said [GRO]

## Summary of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

Time	Speaker	Text
		<b>GRO</b>
34.47	DM	When was that. When did the conversation take place
	JS	A couple of months ago. <b>GRO</b>
		<b>GRO</b>
	DM	Are you frightened of <b>GRO</b>
35.05	JS	No
	DM	Does she have some sort of hold over you
	JS	No
	DM	You have got to see it from our point of view. When you first went there you were told don't trust her she has been investigated
	JS	Her stock unit ( <b>GRO</b> ) was down by £1400 , customers kept coming back, to be fair it was customers you get to know them, you know who they are and you know who would and who wouldn't lie and you can tell and one of them was a disabled person who came back and said she had shortchanged them by £100. I wouldn't say go ahead <b>GRO</b> pay them back its quite alright
	SB	I understand that. The shortchanging the customers by £100 and its happened on a few occasions. To shortchange a customer by £100 is an awful lot
	JS	Yes it is
	SB	Also, after she had shortchanged the first customer, what did you say to <b>GRO</b>
40.00	JS	I gave her a warning for it after the first time because it

## Summary of Tape Recorded Interview (continued)

40.04		was £300 in a week
	SB	After the third time, £300 in one week
	JS	Yes
	DM	DM clarifies that the North Bransholme was on branch trading in 23/11/2005 TP9
	DM	When in branch trading did you move each week to the next balancing period (BP)
	JS	No
	DM	So you rolled it for a month
	JS	A month Yes
	DM	How often did you do your cash declarations then
	JS	Once a month
	DM	So your cash decs were only once a month. So when you say the first shortage is £7,500 round about January, are you sure it was Jan and not earlier
	JS	Yes round about Christmas time coming into January
	DM	So this £7,500 would that be in branch trading 10 covering December 23 <sup>rd</sup> up to mid Jan so would the inflation on the cash be in that
	JS	It started then yes
		Master tape seal 043366 signed by all parties
		Tape ends 14.10