

Witness Statement

Post Office Ltd

Criminal Justice Act 1967, Section 9; Magistrates Court Act 1980,
sub section. 5A(3)(a) and 5B; Criminal Procedure Rules 2005,
Rule 27.1

Statement of **Dennis WATSON**

Age if under 18 Over 18 (If over 18 insert 'over 18')

This statement (consisting of pages each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything, which I know to be false or do not believe true.

Dated the 8th day of May 2012

Signature

I have been employed by Post Office Ltd for ?? years. My current role is Network Field

Support Advisor which I have held since **September 2010** and my duties include

auditing Post Office branches. The purpose of this role is to verify the assets held at a

Post Office branch are correct and the transactions are performed to the required

specification to ensure the security of the Post Office, its customers and its clients and

report the result of the audit.

On Wednesday 8th February 2011 I arrived at Birkenshaw Post Office branch 712

Bradford Road Birkenshaw Bradford BD11 2AE at approximately 08:55 am to undertake

an Intervention visit on behalf of cash management and complete a cash check.

I introduced myself to the sub postmaster Mr Khayyam ISHAQ and explained the

purpose of my visit to the branch. Mr Ishaq allowed me access to the secure area.

I counted the cash and discovered the cash was short by £536. I asked Mr Ishaq if this

is what he was expecting and he replied that it was different to the cash he had

declared the previous night.

I reported my findings to the Paul WILLIAMS Contract Manger for Post Office Ltd and

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Continuation of statement of David WATSON

also explained that there was a discrepancy surplus in the balance snapshot of £2100.

Mr WILLIAMS requested a full audit of all the cash and stock held at the Post Office branch. All the, cash, stock and vouchers held at Birkenshaw Post Office branch were to be checked and I explained this to Mr ISHAQ.

At approximately 11:40 am my collage Kath SMITH arrived at the branch to assist me with the audit.

I printed off a series of reports from the Horizon system to ascertain the cash and stock holdings that should be on hand at Birkenshaw Post Office branch in order to complete the audit.

I completed the audit and the result of the audit was a shortage of £21,168.64 on the day. A breakdown of the audit result and details of the audit findings are as follows:

Identified as a shortage in stock figures	-£ 12.90
Identified as a discrepancy as per office snapshot	-£ 21,181.54
Total Shortage	-£ 21,168.64

There were large discrepancies in the stock of 100 x 1 class stamps sheets, 100x second class stamp sheets, 50 x first class stamp sheets and 50 x second class stamp sheets.

I have produced a report detailing the findings at Birkenshaw Post Office branch and I now produce this report as **DW/1**.

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I asked Mr ISHAQ if he had an explanation of these discrepancies and he replied that he had no idea.

My colleague Kath SMITH contacted Chesterfield to check if the stamps received at Birkenshaw had been incorrectly accounted for. It was reported back that a number of sales for large sheet of stamps had been reversed out of the Horizon system.

I asked Mr ISHAQ if he had an explanation for these sales reversals and he replied that he had no knowledge of any sales being reversed and a relief sub postmaster had been working at the branch and it could have been him.

I informed Mr ISHAQ that the majority of the reversals had taken place under his own User ID and he replied that the relief had been using Mr ISHAQ's User ID.

I offered Mr Ishaq the opportunity to satisfy himself that the figures of the audit team were correct and perform his own independent count of the cash and stock on hand, he declined this offer.

The reports printed off the Horizon system together with Branch Trading Statements have been passed to Stephen BRADSHAW Security Manager.

Signature

Signature witnessed by