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**The Real Network**5th February 2008

Investigation Team Post Office Limited

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LONDON SW1W 9LTTel: **GRO**
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www.royalmail.com**REGINA v JOSEPHINE HAMILTON**
CASE NO: POLTD/0506/0685

The above named Defendant appeared at Winchester Crown Court for Sentence on the 4th February 2008 having previously pleaded Guilty to Counts 2 – 15 on the Indictment. Count 1 (theft) is to lie on the file. Having pleaded Guilty the Court imposed the following Sentence:-

	CHARGE	SENTENCE
1	Between the 1 st day of October 2003 and 9 th day of March 2006 stole £36,644.89 in money belonging to Post Office Limited (Contrary to Section 1(1) of the Theft Act 1968)	To lie on the file
2	On or about the 1 st day of December 2004 dishonestly and with a view to gain for herself or another or with intent to cause loss to another falsified an account made or required for an accounting process, namely a weekly cash account record for the cash accounting period ending 1 st December 2004 ['CAP 36'], by recording that the cash on hand was £15,951.92 when in fact the true amount was less (Contrary to Section 17(1) of the Theft Act 1968)	Community Order and Supervision Order for 12 months
3	On or about the 5 th day of January 2005 dishonestly and with a view to gain for herself or another or with intent to cause loss to another falsified an account made or required for an accounting process, namely a weekly cash account record for the cash accounting period ending 5 th January 2005 ['CAP 41'] by recording that the cash on hand was £21,345.34 when in fact the true amount was less (Contrary to Section 17(1) of the Theft Act 1968)	"

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4	On or about the 2 nd day of February 2005 dishonestly and with a view to gain for herself or another or with intent to cause loss to another falsified an account made or required for an accounting process, namely a weekly cash account record for the cash accounting period ending 2 nd February 2005 ['CAP 45'] by recording that the cash on hand was £15,401.07 when in fact the true amount was less (Contrary to Section 17(1) of the Theft Act 1968)	“
5	On or about the 2 nd day of March 2005 dishonestly and with a view to gain for herself or another or with intent to cause loss to another falsified an account made or required for an accounting process, namely a weekly cash account record for the cash accounting period ending 2 nd March 2005 ['CAP 49'] by recording that the cash on hand was £14,944.55 when in fact the true amount was less (Contrary to Section 17(1) of the Theft Act 1968)	“
6	On or about the 6 th day of April 2005 dishonestly and with a view to gain for herself or another or with intent to cause loss to another falsified an account made or required for an accounting process, namely a weekly cash account record for the cash accounting period ending 6 th April 2005 ['CAP 2'] by recording that the cash on hand was £18,578.14 when in fact the true amount was less (Contrary to Section 17(1) of the Theft Act 1968)	“
7	On or about the 4 th day of May 2005 dishonestly and with a view to gain for herself or another or with intent to cause loss to another falsified an account made or required for an accounting process, namely a weekly cash account record for the cash accounting period ending 4 th May 2005 ['CAP 6'] by recording that the cash on hand was £18,813.67 when in fact the true amount was less (Contrary to Section 17(1) of the Theft Act 1968)	“

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8	On or about the 1 st day of June 2005 dishonestly and with a view to gain for herself or another or with intent to cause loss to another falsified an account made or required for an accounting process, namely a weekly cash account record for the cash accounting period ending 1 st June 2005 ['CAP 10'] by recording that the cash on hand was £19,250.58 when in fact the true amount was less (Contrary to Section 17(1) of the Theft Act 1968)	“
9	On or about the 13 th day of July 2005 dishonestly and with a view to gain for herself or another or with intent to cause loss to another falsified an account made or required for an accounting process, namely a weekly cash account record for the cash accounting period ending 13 th July 2005 ['CAP 16'] by recording that the cash on hand figure was £22,423.18 when in fact the true amount was less (Contrary to Section 17(1) of the Theft Act 1968)	“
10	On or about the 3 rd day of August 2005 dishonestly and with a view to gain for herself or another or with intent to cause loss to another falsified an account made or required for an accounting process, namely a weekly cash account record for the cash accounting period ending 3 rd August 2005 ['CAP 19'] by recording that the cash on hand was £23,349.29 when in fact the true amount was less (Contrary to Section 17(1) of the Theft Act 1968)	“
11	On or about the 7 th day of September 2005 dishonestly and with a view to gain for herself or another or with intent to cause loss to another falsified an account made or required for an accounting process, namely a weekly cash account record for the cash accounting period ending 7 th September 2005 ['CAP 24'] by recording that the cash on hand was £23,470.76 when in fact the true amount was less (Contrary to Section 17(1) of the Theft Act 1968)	“

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12	On or about the 5 th October 2005 dishonestly and with a view to gain for herself or another or with intent to cause loss to another falsified an account made or required for an accounting process, namely a weekly cash account record for the cash accounting period ending 5 th October 2005 ['CAP 28'] by recording that the cash on hand was £26,393.96 when in fact the true amount was less (Contrary to Section 17(1) of the Theft Act 1968)	“
13	On or about the 7 th day of December 2005 dishonestly and with a view to gain for herself or another or with intent to cause loss to another falsified an account made or required for an accounting process, namely a final branch trading statement for the period ending 7 th December 2005 ['BTP 8'] by recording that the cash on hand was £29,977.65 when in fact the true amount was less (Contrary to Section 17(1) of the Theft Act 1968)	“
14	On or about the 13 th January 2006 dishonestly and with a view to gain for herself or another or with intent to cause loss to another falsified an account made or required for an accounting process, namely a final branch trading statement for the period ending 13 th January 2006 ['BTP 9'] by recording that the cash on hand was £32,629.81 when in fact the true amount was less (Contrary to Section 17(1) of the Theft Act 1968)	“
15	On or about the 8 th day of February 2006 dishonestly and with a view to gain for herself or another or with intent to cause loss to another falsified an account made or required for an accounting process, namely a final branch trading statement for the period ending 8 th February 2006 ['BTP 10'] by recording that the cash on hand was £35,515.83 when in fact the true amount was less (Contrary to Section 17(1) of the Theft Act 1968)	“

The Defendant was ordered to pay £1,000 prosecution costs.

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The Guilty pleas were acceptable to the prosecution on the basis that the Defendant paid back the money prior to sentence. Her Solicitor Issy Hogg, a partner in Tanner and Taylor was in Court who confirmed that the sum of £36,644.89 was currently in Client Account together with the £1,000 costs and signed an undertaking that the money be paid to the Post Office within 14 days.

There were at least 30-40 villagers in Court who gave their support to Mrs Hamilton and the Lady Reverend of the Village gave character evidence from the witness box.

In passing sentence the Judge said that at some stage the Defendant had gone from being in a muddle to being dishonest and it turned into fraud. He accepted the wholly exceptional circumstances in passing sentence.

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