

**File name:** N Heaven 3-01.mp3

**Moderator questions in Bold**, Respondents in Regular text.

KEY: **Unable to decipher** = (inaudible + timecode), **Phonetic spelling** (ph) + timecode), **Missed word** = (mw + timecode), **Talking over each other** = (talking over each other + timecode).

**(TC: 00:00:02)**

**Moderator 1: I'm resuming the interview. The time is 17:55, the date is 30th January 2001. The place is Stroud Police Station. My name is Elaine David, security manager.**

**(TC: 00:00:15)**

**Moderator 2: Paul Travers, also a security manager.**

(TC: 00:00:18)

Simon Hayes: Simon Hayes, solicitor.

(TC: 00:00:21)

Nicola Heaven: Nicola Heaven.

**(TC: 00:00:22)**

**Moderator 1: Nicola, I'd like to remind you that you do not have to say anything, it may harm your defence if you do not mention when questioned something which you later rely on in court. Anything you do say may be given in evidence. Do you understand that?**

(TC: 00:00:35)

Nicola Heaven: Yes.

**(TC: 00:00:36)**

**Moderator 1: Okay. Once again, I need to remind you of your legal rights, it is you're not under arrest. You do not have to remain in this interview. Simon's your solicitor and you are entitled to**

**the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. Okay, so if you'd like to sign, okay, that one, sorry. And date and sign.**

**(TC: 00:01:14)**

**Moderator 2: Just on that matter, during the break in the interview you took the opportunity to have a discussion with your solicitor. Are you both happy that you've had ample time to talk about-**

**(TC: 00:01:23)**

Simon Hayes: Yes, we had a brief chat, but I mean, carry on.

**(TC: 00:01:27)**

**Moderator 2: Okay, thank you.**

**(TC: 00:01:27)**

**Moderator 1: If you write in there, solicitor present, I didn't go through that last time, yes. (inaudible 01.35) Thank you. Prior to the tape stopping, Paul was in the middle of speaking to Nicky about something, we'll let him carry on.**

**(TC: 00:01:50)**

Simon Hayes: I'm sorry.

**(TC: 00:01:51)**

**Moderator 2: Yes, I was just in the throes of (inaudible 01.54) at all on the balance of probabilities and (inaudible 02.00) basically, I just wanted to underline, you know, the fact to you that we're talking about (inaudible 02.08) and pension allowances that are not being accounted for in any other way, shape or form. They're not being brought to notice by corresponding errors in anything else.**

**(TC: 00:02:19)**

Simon Hayes: When you say anything else, sorry to interrupt. What do you mean by that?

(TC: 00:02:23)

**Moderator 2: There is nothing coming from any other department the Post Office does business for, like Giro Bank, National Savings or anything like that, any of the other agencies. The Post Office does business with various agencies, as I said, like Giro Bank and there's nothing coming back from those particular agencies to suggest that there is anything that's going to compensate for these overpayments.**

(TC: 00:02:46)

Simon Hayes: I'm prompted (inaudible 02.48) asked.

(TC: 00:02:50)

**Moderator 2: We would be informed as a matter of course by those people through the Post Office finance accounting department in Chesterfield.**

(TC: 00:02:59)

Simon Hayes: So, you've been informed (inaudible 03.01).

(TC: 00:03:02)

**Moderator 2: Well, we've asked, well, Elaine has asked recently for a print out of all the error notices, which we showed you right at the beginning, which shows, let me find it, just a few errors.**

(TC: 00:03:15)

Nicola Heaven: Yes.

(TC: 00:03:16)

**Moderator 2: Error notices that have been generated. Basically, 9th August 1999, there's a Giro error of £20. 4th April in 2000, £36 error in BC Stamps redeemed.**

(TC: 00:03:34)

Nicola Heaven: Can I have a look at that?

(TC: 00:03:35)

**Moderator 2: Yes, I'll show it to you. 13th April just general errors in accounting work for British Telecom (inaudible 03.46) show you that one there.**

(TC: 00:03:48)

Simon Hayes: When did you know about the (talking over each other 03.49).

(TC: 00:03:49)

Nicola Heaven: That's just from 9th August 1999 then, not from the start, you know. Because we're talking from December 1998, aren't we? You are. But the errors were in August 1999.

(TC: 00:04:02)

**Moderator 2: There is nothing that's come to us prior.**

(TC: 00:04:04)

Nicola Heaven: Prior to them. Before them, do you mean?

(TC: 00:04:06)

**Moderator 1: Yes, before that, before these, right, we had the last accounting record at your last interview, and there was nothing, nothing had come to light on that one. Not substantial, they were only small ones.**

(TC: 00:04:17)

**Moderator 2: There was nothing that was going to compensate for anything that we're talking about today.**

(TC: 00:04:22)

Nicola Heaven: (inaudible 04.22) I know I was given a verbal-, well, I was attempted to be given a verbal warning for, sort of, continually making an error with Giro Bank.

(TC: 00:04:34)

**Moderator 2: What sort of error?**

(TC: 00:04:35)

Nicola Heaven: But this wasn't this year, it was last-, not-, I don't think it was 1999.

(TC: 00:04:40)

**Moderator 2: What sort of errors were they, Nicky?**

(TC: 00:04:42)

Nicola Heaven: I can't remember. They're on Giro Bank, definitely. At the time, [REDACTED] GRO so I got away with it. But there are these three errors or more within a certain amount of time or something, you've got to have a verbal-, no, it was a verbal warning. If they-, no, it wasn't a QPA error, it was service errors. [REDACTED] GRO (inaudible 05.07) allow it to stand and I've just looked, they weren't on there, which that made me notice that this is from August 1999.

(TC: 00:05:17)

**Moderator 2: But even so, alright, let's just accept that from August 1999, you know, forget anything prior to that, right, but August 1999, which is basically from the bottom of page one of the schedule, you know, as I said, you know, I don't want to split hairs with you. I don't want to argue about what we've got and what we haven't got. The fact is, that the overclaims are there for everybody to see and even if we only take from August 1999 onwards, there are only four errors and only two of those involve money. The others were just discrepancies in what's been prepared. So, there's nothing that's going to come back, at this late stage anyway, that's going to account for any of these.**

(TC: 00:06:07)

Nicola Heaven: On the transactions that you've checked, you mean?

(TC: 00:06:09)

**Moderator 2: On any transaction that has been conducted with paper, I cannot say anything about any stock transactions that you've conducted, but you're not going to tell me that you sold, let's say,**

**for instance, I mean, if we take an extreme, right, let me finish. If we take an extreme incident in week, say, 22, 17th to 23rd August on there, we'll see that the overclaim there is over £1,000. Well, you're not going to tell me that, you know, that is a stock error. Not this size (mw 06.44).**

(TC: 00:06:46)

Nicola Heaven: There's (inaudible 06.49) stop yourself there, £17,000 (mw 06.52).

**(TC: 00:06:53)**

**Moderator 2: Yes, but how much are you going to sell in a week?**

(TC: 00:06:56)

Nicola Heaven: (inaudible 06.56).

**(TC: 00:06:58)**

**Moderator 2: You're not going to sell £1,000, are you?**

(TC: 00:07:00)

Nicola Heaven: (inaudible 07.00).

**(TC: 00:07:02)**

**Moderator 2: You're not going to sell enough to cover £1,000 overclaim, I don't think.**

(TC: 00:07:11)

Nicola Heaven: (inaudible 07.10).

**(TC: 00:07:25)**

**Moderator 2: I'm just picking a cash account at random here, okay, I'm not, you know, (inaudible 07.29). (talking over each other 07.29)**

(TC: 00:07:30)

Nicola Heaven: (inaudible 07.30).

**(TC: 00:07:31)**

**Moderator 2: I mean, if we're looking at, you know, the amount of stock held, it's showing over £3,000 in cash.**

(TC: 00:07:43)

Nicola Heaven: It's at the bottom, £3,000 stock in cash (inaudible 07.45).

**(TC: 00:07:46)**

**Moderator 2: Yes.**

(TC: 00:07:46)

Nicola Heaven: Which is what?

**(TC: 00:07:51)**

**Moderator 2: Talking maybe, you know, £20,000 worth of stock actually held at the office. Now, how much of that would you sell? Well, from this (mw 08.01) if we get a (talking over each other 08.02).**

(TC: 00:08:02)

Nicola Heaven: What about if it was counted incorrectly?

**(TC: 00:08:06)**

**Moderator 2: But that would then show up the following week wouldn't it, in your accounts?**

(TC: 00:08:11)

Nicola Heaven: Well no, because they're all cat (mw 08.12) aren't they?

(TC: 00:08:14)

**Moderator 1: But you said you checked your stock, (talking over each other 08.18).**

(TC: 00:08:18)

Nicola Heaven: I check that it-, have you looked in the safe at (mw 08.20) Hill to see what, how the stock is made up in the safe? Because all the stamps are under £1, as in postage stamps are under £1, which is £1, £1.50 and £3 stamps and two at £5 stamps. There is a £5 stamp. Then we keep a running graph total on. And the BT savings stamps, which are the £5 and £2, the NBL stamps, which were £5 each, (inaudible 08.58).

(TC: 00:08:58)

**Moderator 1: Yes, but you said earlier that-,**

(TC: 00:09:00)

Nicola Heaven: But all I check is the big wodge of loose stamps, there are no running totals for those. So, you've got to count all those separately, which is all the stamps from the penny to £1. All the electric tokens, the loose ones. The gas tokens, all those you can't count separately.

(TC: 00:09:20)

**Moderator 1: I understand that, I worked on the counter, and has Paul, so we know what stock.**

(TC: 00:09:24)

Nicola Heaven: But you know, what I'm saying is, is the stocks that have got running totals on wouldn't be checked every week.

(TC: 00:09:31)

**Moderator 1: No, but you said earlier that if you had a mis-balance you would check your stock. Now, are you saying you don't check your bulk stock?**

(TC: 00:09:41)

Nicola Heaven: But, what I'm-, well no, when you said, 'What do I do if I mis-balance?' I said, 'That would be up to Joyce.'

**(TC: 00:09:49)**

**Moderator 1: No, but Joyce hasn't been in the equation now for-,**

(TC: 00:09:52)

Nicola Heaven: From this year.

**(TC: 00:09:53)**

**Moderator 1: A year.**

(TC: 00:09:54)

Nicola Heaven: So, I mean I can't ask Brian to look at it for me.

**(TC: 00:09:57)**

**Moderator 1: No, so, since Joyce has (talking over each other 09.59) (TC 00:10:00)**

(TC: 00:10:01)

Nicola Heaven: Check it now. To be honest, I haven't always checked it because I think, well it will come to light. I'm confident they'll find it somewhere.

**(TC: 00:10:08)**

**Moderator 1: Okay.**

**(TC: 00:10:09)**

**Moderator 2: But they wouldn't find it in the stock, would they? And you said yourself, you would count the cash and stock.**

(TC: 00:10:16)

Nicola Heaven: I have done. Yes. I have done. But not always. This, I mean, this year without Joyce being there, I've had to not take on more responsibility because I refuse to do that because it's not my job to take on total responsibility of the Post Office. Which I've made it clear from the start, I was never paid for that, I was never under contract for that. In my employers contract with Joyce, it clearly stated that Joyce would come down clearly and check my work on a regular basis and would check the balance weekly, which is what she done.

(TC: 00:10:52)

**Moderator 2: Joyce wasn't in at the office from just before-,**

(TC: 00:10:57)

Nicola Heaven: November 1999.

(TC: 00:10:58)

**Moderator 2: December. November 1999 onwards.**

(TC: 00:11:00)

Nicola Heaven: Yes.

(TC: 00:11:00)

**Moderator 2: And you were there for a year really, on your own.**

(TC: 00:11:02)

Nicola Heaven: No, not on my own, I was with Marlene as well.

(TC: 00:11:04)

**Moderator 2: Well, I mean, as running the office, let's put it that way. Now, don't misunderstand me.**

(TC: 00:11:09)

Nicola Heaven: For about eight months.

(TC: 00:11:11)

**Moderator 2: Okay, whatever (inaudible 11.12) or monthly (inaudible 11.14). I'm certainly not going to argue that anything regarding the stock levels. I mean, it is possible for me to compare week by week how much stock you are selling to get an average amount, right. I haven't got the time to do that now and if we're going to, you know, sort of, wrap this interview up as quickly as we can then, you know, we really haven't got the time to do that. So, it's best leave that for the time being, let's not argue about that any more. Let's get on with dealing with, you know, perhaps one more matter and then we'll wrap it up. Okay.**

(TC: 00:11:59)

**Moderator 1: I mentioned to you earlier, about the week when Charles covered for you, that there was no book then on that. I also spoke to Anne, spoke to Anne on about two occasions when was when she covered for you in April.**

(TC: 00:12:20)

Nicola Heaven: April of last year?

(TC: 00:12:23)

**Moderator 1: Yes. I'll check the dates with you now.**

(TC: 00:12:26)

Simon Hayes: What's her surname, please?

(TC: 00:12:28)

**Moderator 2: Simons.**

(TC: 00:12:30)

Nicola Heaven: When did you speak to her?

**(TC: 00:12:31)**

**Moderator 2: (mw 12.31).**

**(TC: 00:12:33)**

**Moderator 1: I've spoken to Anne recently.**

(TC: 00:12:35)

Nicola Heaven: Not when you spoke to me originally then.

**(TC: 00:12:38)**

**Moderator 1: Since I've spoken to you. Since I spoke to you last.**

(TC: 00:12:42)

Nicola Heaven: This year or last year?

**(TC: 00:12:46)**

**Moderator 1: I spoke to Anne just before Christmas since yes.**

(TC: 00:12:49)

Nicola Heaven: Just before Christmas, so two months after me then.

**(TC: 00:12:52)**

**Moderator 1: But I'm not saying what date, it wasn't this year.**

(TC: 00:12:56)

Nicola Heaven: But, a long time after we'd spoken, well not too, but carry on yes, okay.

(TC: 00:13:01)

Simon Hayes: I don't know what significance that has, but anyway.

(TC: 00:13:03)

**Moderator 1: No. Right, I'm showing your cash account for week number four dated 19th April 2000, okay. Can you confirm for me Nicky that that is not your handwriting? Is it?**

(TC: 00:13:17)

Nicola Heaven: No, it's not, no. That's Anne's.

(TC: 00:13:20)

**Moderator 1: Yes. So, do you remember if you were on holiday that period when Anne covered for you?**

(TC: 00:13:28)

Nicola Heaven: Probably just (inaudible 13.29).

(TC: 00:13:32)

**Moderator 1: Okay. Right, that week we've got a discrepancy, again, of £102.14. In the daily accounts for week four, can you tell me if any of those entries are your writing please Nicky (ph 13.56).**

(TC: 00:13:59)

Nicola Heaven: The top one.

(TC: 00:14:00)

**Moderator 1: The top one. What day was that written against?**

(TC: 00:14:05)

Nicola Heaven: Thursday.

**(TC: 00:14:07)**

**Moderator 1: And how much is that for, please?**

(TC: 00:14:08)

Nicola Heaven: What am I-,

**(TC: 00:14:09)**

**Moderator 1: The amount (talking over each other 14.10).**

(TC: 00:14:10)

Nicola Heaven: £5,526.76

**(TC: 00:14:14)**

**Moderator 1: And the total on the add list I'm now showing you dated 13th April, for this date, can you see the amount on there?**

(TC: 00:14:24)

Nicola Heaven: £5,526.76.

**(TC: 00:14:30)**

**Moderator 1: Did you prepare and complete (ph 14.32) that document?**

(TC: 00:14:34)

Nicola Heaven: The same-, the same answer as before, I can say that that is my handwriting but-,

**(TC: 00:14:41)**

**Moderator 1: On that list there, again is an overclaim, two orders at £102.14 claimed, again, only one order (inaudible 14.51) I said, Anne signed the cash account that week, but Anne wasn't there when it closed (ph 14.58). And Anne has confirmed that unless the balance is out by a significant amount, there's no way she would check.**

(TC: 00:15:08)

Nicola Heaven: (inaudible 15.08).

(TC: 00:15:10)

**Moderator 1: An amount to make her go back and check, as with Charles, if there's a large error, they would go back and check the work. How much was she out? She was over by £10.18. For £10.18 she wouldn't check all the paperwork and then she would take documentation with (talking over each other 15.35)**

(TC: 00:15:36)

Nicola Heaven: She'd take it (talking over each other 15.37) whatever the (talking over each other 15.39) send it off.

(TC: 00:15:43)

**Moderator 1: As did Charles.**

(TC: 00:15:44)

Nicola Heaven: Yes, as do I.

(TC: 00:15:48)

**Moderator 1: You can't explain that at all.**

(TC: 00:15:51)

Nicola Heaven: Explain what?

(TC: 00:15:53)

**Moderator 1: Well, the shortage in that, we're one order short there £102.14.**

(TC: 00:15:59)

Nicola Heaven: I can't say the difference what has already been said, that I can't guarantee that I have to add the one. I can guarantee that I separate them into groups and it's my handwriting, which it would be no matter who added them up, so I'm not prepared to offer an explanation for something I'm not sure that I've done or not, no.

(TC: 00:16:20)

**Moderator 1: Nicky, we've got 85 weeks there. All those overclaims are the weeks that you've been there and signed the cash sheet. And you're saying you don't know anything at all about it.**

(TC: 00:16:37)

Nicola Heaven: No, I'm not saying I don't know anything at all, I can't answer what you're saying to me as in whether, you know, Paul's clearly stated his opinion of what he thinks has happened. I clearly stated my knowledge as fact that I know I haven't done what he is suggesting. That is my comment on it. I mean, yes, there's (talking over each other 17.01) problem, I'm not saying there's not a problem and that there are obvious mistakes there, I'm not saying that either. What I'm saying is, for one, I'm not prepared, at this stage, to accuse anybody who's worked in that office of taking money, if that is what you're waiting for me to say. I don't believe Marlene would take any money, I don't believe Joyce would take any money, and I know for a fact I haven't. And that's all I can say. I haven't got access to anything else on the cash account at all to check myself.

(TC: 00:17:39)

**Moderator 1: What would you want to check?**

(TC: 00:17:42)

Nicola Heaven: Well, a lot of it would be unavailable to me.

(TC: 00:17:44)

**Moderator 1: What do you feel, if you had, you could check?**

(TC: 00:17:51)

Nicola Heaven: It's difficult because I haven't got the knowledge to do it but-,

**(TC: 00:17:54)**

**Moderator 1: No, but you were saying to me you haven't got the paperwork, I'm just asking-,**

(TC: 00:17:59)

Nicola Heaven: But you'd want all the (talking over each other 17.59) wouldn't you. I mean, yes, you're saying that whoever it is at Chesterfield hasn't found errors. How do we know they're not making a mistake? You know, we've already said, no, you're grinning, you've already said yourself that everyone is capable of mistakes. These people are capable of mistakes as well and they have made that.

**(TC: 00:18:17)**

**Moderator 2: Let me tell you what happens, right. There's a computer link, right, between Chesterfield and Giro Bank and the National Savings Bank and British Telecoms, okay. And what happens is, that when you send your documentation off to Giro Bank, right, they check that documentation, okay, and they confirm then, by computer with Chesterfield, that everything is okay.**

(TC: 00:18:41)

Nicola Heaven: And it's always been done that way? Is that what we're saying?

**(TC: 00:18:43)**

**Moderator 2: As long as you've-, as this inquiry's been going on okay. So, the link will-,**

(TC: 00:18:49)

Nicola Heaven: Okay, as long as this, so you're saying in the last six months or as in from December 1998 this is the method that's been done?

**(TC: 00:18:57)**

**Moderator 2: It's always been done this way, ever since as far as I'm-, you know, as far as computers have been in use in regular daily use, okay. What happens is that Giro Bank will confirm with Chesterfield, that's why you send a copy of your cash account to Chesterfield, right.**

**So that they can check with Giro Bank, with Savings Bank, that the figures that you've sent to them are correct.**

(TC: 00:19:18)

Nicola Heaven: Right.

**(TC: 00:19:19)**

**Moderator 2: Right. And they'll correlate.**

(TC: 00:19:21)

Nicola Heaven: So, what happens about the cheques then? The same thing?

**(TC: 00:19:25)**

**Moderator 2: They'd be processed in the same way, yes.**

(TC: 00:19:27)

Nicola Heaven: And what happens with them now?

**(TC: 00:19:28)**

**Moderator 1: You won't have to take cheques.**

(TC: 00:19:31)

Nicola Heaven: They sit down and count all the cheques up and then match it-,

**(TC: 00:19:35)**

**Moderator 2: Well, they have to go to a clearing house, don't they? They have to go back to the bank.**

(TC: 00:19:38)

Nicola Heaven: But we've no way of-, so, if I wanted to check the cheques, I couldn't could I, then?

**(TC: 00:19:46)**

**Moderator 2: I don't know whether they're still available, to be honest.**

(TC: 00:19:51)

Nicola Heaven: But they wouldn't have re-checked them, would they? They would just say, 'Well we've checked them once and that's it.'

**(TC: 00:19:58)**

**Moderator 2: Well, how many times do you want them to check them? (TC 00:20:00)**

(TC: 00:20:01)

Nicola Heaven: Well, considering the problems we've got here, again. I would want, you know, what else, you know, to me, knowing the people who work for me, or work alongside me, should I say, I don't believe anybody has taken any money. So, yes, I would want every single transaction on here checked again on every cash account. The mistake is in there somewhere.

**(TC: 00:20:29)**

**Moderator 1: You said all the different sections, because each one of these goes to a different group of people. So, (talking over each other 20.35). But what we're saying, it's not just one person, they go off to different people. They go off to BT, to Giro, they go off. Now then, nobody has come back with any errors. Nobody.**

(TC: 00:20:51)

Nicola Heaven: No.

(TC: 00:20:52)

Simon Hayes: What she's saying is that she's not taking (inaudible 20.55).

(TC: 00:20:59)

Nicola Heaven: I would have to (talking over each other 21.00). Wouldn't you? If you were me, wouldn't you do that? (talking over each other 21.04)

(TC: 00:21:06)

**Moderator 1: Is there?**

(TC: 00:21:06)

Nicola Heaven: But I'm not prepared to take their word for it when you're trying to accuse me of that, knowing damn well that I haven't taken a penny, (talking over each other 21.14)

(TC: 00:21:14)

**Moderator 1: I'm not accusing you, I'm asking you to explain.**

(TC: 00:21:15)

Nicola Heaven: But I feel as though I'm being accused because without that information, I have no explanation. You two have put me in a position where I have no explanation because I haven't got access to the people who are double checking all the transactions.

(TC: 00:21:31)

**Moderator 1: Okay, and as I said-**

(TC: 00:21:32)

Nicola Heaven: And it's getting to a point now, from what you two have said today, that in order for me or Simon or whatever, to find where the hell the problem is, I mean, I can't obviously check whether Marlene's taken the money or whether Brian has or whatever. And I wouldn't intend to or care to, but the only thing that is possible, I would guess, is for us to go over these figures. Which obviously, I will want to do, that is common sense. You would do the same if you were me. You know, I have nothing [GRO] [GRO] worth even close to the figures you're talking about. And I mean, I have got, well, every single bank statement you can think of. I don't think anything is actually paid for [GRO] apart from (inaudible 22.23) anyway. So, I mean, everything is owned by everybody else, I've got evidence. So, I know, you know, so you can't turn round and say it's unusual for me to want to do that.

(TC: 00:22:36)

**Moderator 2: We're not saying it's unusual-,**

(TC: 00:22:37)

Nicola Heaven: It's the only thing I have left, isn't it? To convince you that I haven't taken the money. Because you didn't, you know, to me the common sense would be to, whilst you had me in October in the office, totally unexpected, get in my house, plough in there, get the bank statements, get a warrant and then rip the house apart and then it would have all been over. I wouldn't have had to (inaudible 22.58). Instead I've lost my job, I've lost nearly £5,000 worth of stock, and we're still battling through the same old things.

(TC: 00:23:06)

**Moderator 1: Because (inaudible 23.07) when you were in charge. Which-,**

(TC: 00:23:09)

Nicola Heaven: I wasn't in charge then.

(TC: 00:23:11)

**Moderator 1: You took responsibility.**

(TC: 00:23:12)

Nicola Heaven: Have you asked-, no I did not take responsibility and I'm not taking it now.

(TC: 00:23:15)

**Moderator 2: Let's not argue about, you know, who-,**

(TC: 00:23:17)

Nicola Heaven: No, we're just going back to what I would want.

(TC: 00:23:20)

**Moderator 2: We know who the sub postmaster was, we know who was running the office,**

**basically, right. Whether you want to accept the responsibility of that is neither here nor there. You were the person that was in the office day in day out and preparing the accounts. Yes. Is that not true?**

(TC: 00:23:37)

Nicola Heaven: Until when?

**(TC: 00:23:40)**

**Moderator 2: Until the time of the audit.**

(TC: 00:23:41)

Nicola Heaven: I would accept that I had to do everything as in preparation of the cash account from January-, no, I would go earlier back than that, December 1999 until the day I was suspended, I had to do the cash account when I was there. I will not accept responsibility for all the interfering with Joyce Braithwell (ph 24.06) would come down every single day. I've got statements-, no I'm talking about pre to that. But I've got, well I'm not going to tell you what I've got because I haven't spoke to Simon about them yet. But I won't accept what you're saying pre to when Joyce was there because she had a lot to do with that Post Office. The running of it, she took total responsibility for it, she was down daily and what she said went. And you wouldn't stand and argue the toss with her. From then on, I mean, yes, I made Brian aware of what I knew, but I won't take responsibility for Marlene's work. But I will take responsibility for mistakes I have made, and that is all. I'm not taking responsibility for the building, the Post Office-,

**(TC: 00:24:52)**

**Moderator 2: Nobody's expecting that from you. (talking over each other 24.54).**

(TC: 00:24:54)

Nicola Heaven: But I'm under contract with Brian, and in my contract, nobody ever told me-, well I was told the opposite. I don't have to take responsibility for that. I'm only employed as an employee to Mr and Mrs Braithwell. They would take full responsibility of the Post Office and its contents and if I had a problem with anything, I'd just go to them. So, you think that I was preaching around acting sub postmaster boss, I wasn't.

**(TC: 00:25:20)**

**Moderator 2: I've never suggested that, Nicky.**

(TC: 00:25:22)

Nicola Heaven: But you're saying I'm the officer in charge, that's been suggested and-

(TC: 00:25:25)

**Moderator 1: Yes, I apologise for that.**

(TC: 00:25:27)

**Moderator 2: Well, let's-**

(TC: 00:25:29)

Nicola Heaven: And I've taken the responsibility on.

(TC: 00:25:31)

**Moderator 2: I'll maintain that you were the officer in charge of that office. Brian was the sub postmaster, there's no doubt about that, he accepts responsibility for everything that goes on there. But you know as well as I do, that his level of competence of working at that Post Office is virtually zilch, right. The person that knew about the office, that knew how to run the office, that knew how to prepare the accounts, was yourself. And that is why I say that you were the officer in charge. No other reason. I'm not saying that you're responsible for any of that. (talking over each other 26.04) you were running the office.**

(TC: 00:26:06)

Nicola Heaven: I'm not responsible for.

(TC: 00:26:07)

**Moderator 2: Okay. (talking over each other 26.08) but you were running the office. So, to all intents and purposes, you were running the office. Yes, I think so. I think so.**

(TC: 00:26:25)

Nicola Heaven: (inaudible 26.25).

**(TC: 00:26:32)**

**Moderator 1: So, is there anything else you'd like to say before we finish?**

(TC: 00:26:40)

Nicola Heaven: No.

(TC: 00:26:42)

Simon Hayes: No.

**(TC: 00:26:43)**

**Moderator 1: No, nothing okay. The time is now 18:21. I have to inform you that you may have rendered yourself liable to prosecution. Do you wish to clarify anything you've said or add anything before we end this interview?**

(TC: 00:27:00)

Nicola Heaven: No.

**(TC: 00:27:01)**

**Moderator 1: You do not have to say anything, but it may harm your defence if you do not mention now something which you later rely on in court. Anything you do say may be given in evidence. Do you understand that?**

(TC: 00:27:12)

Nicola Heaven: Yes.

**(TC: 00:27:13)**

**Moderator 1: Okay. Give you the form CS019 that explains what will happen to the tapes, given to you before. I'm about to stop the tape machine, if you would sign the seals please. Seal number**

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**034624 and the time is 18.22. And I'm stopping the tape. (Tape stopped at 27.41).**