

**Serious Security Incident Process
Appendix II**

Post Office Ltd - CONFIDENTIAL

Stock: £1132.20 **Total incident loss: £54354.96**

Police contact: DC Steven Marsland **GRO**

Crime reference:

Security equipment to be ordered: Yes (if yes, see summary at appendix A) **No**

1. Opening statement.

Hope Farm Road Post Office is situated in a small town called Great Sutton around 3 miles from the M53
The Post Office is situated on a small shopping precinct in the middle of a row of shops. There is a small car park in front of the shops which provides parking for the precinct.



As you enter the Post Office through the front door the 2 counter serving positions are in front of you with the secure door just to the right of the counter as you face it.

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The post Office has a small retail area with a small retail till on the public side in the window..

2. Current security equipment (to include equipment requirements and summarisation to Appendix A)

- Screen: 2 position anti bandit screen 2000 with a secure door to the right which houses the parcel hatch
- Safe (EFSG) and ancillary equipment and coin safe



- Alarm:

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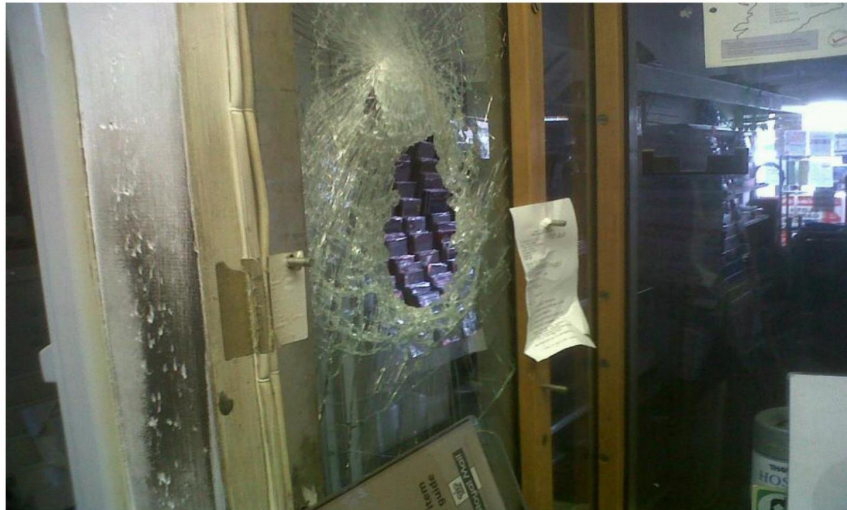
3. The incident

At approximately 5.25pm on Thursday 2nd May Mr Martin Griffiths (Subpostmaster) and his clerk Julie Griffiths (no relation to subpostmaster) were on duty and were putting all the cash and stock away. Both safes were open.

Mr Griffiths was stood at the secure door which also housed the Parcel Hatch. The Postman had arrived to collect the mail, Mr Griffiths had put around 2 mail bags outside of the secure door and the postman had taken these out of the office to his van.

As the Post Man re entered the branch 2 masked men wearing dark clothing, one with a balaclava and one with a stocking of his head burst in and pushed the Post man aside. Mr Griffiths stated that he was stood at the secure door with the door open so he could hand the daily work and giro pouch to the Post Man and get him to sign for the paperwork and went over to the secure door.

One man tried to pull the door open while the other man attacked the screen with a sledge hammer.



Mr Griffiths attempted to get the door shut at which point he believes he was hit on the left hand with some sort of metal bar (possibly a crow bar). At this point Mr Griffiths stopped fighting and allowed the 2 men into the secure area. At this point the assistant Julie Griffiths had crouched down and hid behind the coin safe.

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One assailant stayed at the door while the other emptied both safes and took the cash tray and stamp portfolio off the top of the counters and put them into the black holdall that they were carrying.

The 2 men fled in what was believed to be a Red Honda Civic car (another male was waiting in this).

Martin pressed the alarm and the police arrived shortly afterwards. The police called the ambulance to look over Martins hand. It was badly bruised but nothing serious and did not go to hospital.

4. Conclusions

- £54354.96 was stolen from the post office, £53222.76 of this was cash.
- No customers were present in the Post Office at the Time of the attack
- The SPMR Mr Martin Griffiths sustained bruising to his left hand due to being hit by a metal bar – An ambulance attended at the scene however Mr Griffiths was not hospitalised.
- Weapons used were a sledge hammer and a metal bar.

Information from the police states that the vehicle used in the attack has been recovered burnt out. Also 1 arrest has been made and an amount of money recovered (the police do not believe the full amount has been recovered).

It should be noted that when the Trauma Support Manager visited the branch on Tuesday 7th April 2013 the version of events given by the assistant Julie Griffiths was different to what Mr Martin Griffiths had stated.

Below is an extract from the Trauma Support Managers report (Lee Heil).

Her account states that Martin was actually sat down at the counter position next to the secure door when the 2 males entered and she had to tell Martin what was happening as he wasn't aware. She informs me that the parcel hatch was open and that he went to the secure door when they started smashing the screen which is where I

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believe Martin sustained the injury to his hand whilst trying to shut the parcel hatch. She said they emptied one safe and shouted 'Where's the rest of the money' at which point Martin took them over to the time locked safe that was already open

This version of events is not consistent with the version of events from the SPMR Mr Martin Griffiths.

**Security inspection on 3/5/2013 at Hope Farm Road Po
Risk Score**

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS
APPENDIX A**

**The following is a summary of the key physical
recommendations.**

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1. PHYSICAL SECURITY

ITEM	ACTION
Smashed Screen to be repaired	SPMR

2 Other Issues

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SECURITY CERTIFICATE

To: Security Support
Post Office Ltd Security Team
Clippers Quay
Salford
M50 3NW

From: Mr. Martin Griffiths
Temp Sub-postmaster

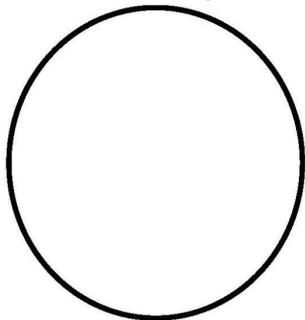
Hope Farm Road SPSO

I have received and understood the security report dated
.../...../..... .

I have implemented all of the recommendations shown, except for those listed below, which I have been unable to implement for the reasons indicated:

Recommendation	Reason why this has not been implemented:

Datestamp and FAD Code -



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Signed.....

Date.....