

Witness Name: Richard Sloggett

Statement No.: WITN06790100

Dated: 18th May 2023

POST OFFICE HORIZON IT INQUIRY

FIRST WITNESS STATEMENT OF RICHARD SLOGGETT

I, Richard Sloggett, will say as follows:-

INTRODUCTION

1. I am a former employee of ICL Pathway. I do not recall my job title but it is my recollection that my role was that of a System Analyst.
2. This witness statement is made to assist the Post Office Horizon IT Inquiry (the "Inquiry") with the matters set out in the Rule 9 Request dated 20th March 2023 (the "Request").

BACKGROUND

3. I have been asked to set out my professional background, my role in relation to the Horizon IT project.

4. In respect of my professional background, I can confirm I worked for ICL Pathway until May or June 1997, having previously worked for Post Office Counters as a System Analyst on the POCL ALPS automation pilot amongst other projects.
5. I do not have a detailed recollection of my work in ICL Pathway. I was there for a relatively short period of time in the early stages of the project.
6. I believe I was working with the Escher Riposte solution, documenting the Riposte EPOSS system components and working with Graeme Seedall of POCL and others to understand how it might be used to address the project requirements.
7. My recollection was that Escher were responsible for actual development of the Riposte EPOSS solution.
8. I have no recollection of the PinICL or PEAK systems mentioned in the information request.
9. I have been asked to explain my reasons for leaving ICL Pathway and what I understand by "Richard Sloggett disappeared, possibly because the design was leading Pathway down a blind alley, as he appeared to be trying to work outside the core of the Riposte product."

10. I can confirm that I left ICL Pathway as I no longer felt that I had an opportunity to contribute in any real sense to the success of the project; my recollection is of an Escher Riposte solution that was immutable and it was evident that this was a situation that was outside of my ability to influence and would not change.
11. I have been asked to consider document EPOSS Component Catalogue V 2.0 dated 12/12/1997 (FUJ00079218). This document carries my name, but has a date some 6 months after I left ICL Pathway. I believe this document merely described the Escher EPOSS solution components and was therefore not a design specification document but was actually documentation of an existing provided solution that was (to my recollection) designed and developed by Escher with fixed capabilities.
12. I have been asked to consider document EPOSS Logical Object Model V 2.0 dated 24/11/1996 (FUJ00079213). My recollection of this document is it was the result of a set of workshops attempting to describe the elements of the POCL stock unit and branch balancing process and the constituent records and events. The information in this document was based (I believe) largely on the solution from the previous ALPS POCL automation project and current POCL accounting practices. I believe this document pre-dates the Escher Riposte EPOSS solution and the technical implementation that solution delivered.
13. I have been asked to confirm if I have, or were you aware of, any concerns regarding the robustness of the Horizon IT system during your time working for ICL Pathway.

14. I can confirm a recollection that at the point in time I was involved with the project the Escher Riposte solution did not directly address key elements of the POCL stock unit and balance based accounting system; based as it was on a distributed transaction log. I recall a strong faith from management in the Escher technology and a negative reaction to questions or challenges around its capability or suitability to address the POCL requirements.

15. I believe my involvement was at the early stages of the project.

Statement of Truth

I believe the content of this statement to be true.

Signed: **GRO**

Dated: 18 | 5 | 23

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| No. | URN | Document Description | Control Number |
|------------|-------------|--|-----------------------|
| 1 | FUJ00079218 | EPOSS Component Catalogue V 2.0 dated 12/12/1997 | POINQ0085389F |
| 2 | FUJ00079213 | EPOSS Logical Object Model V 2.0 dated 24/11/1996 | POINQ0085384F |