

WITNESS: JOSEPHINE HAMILTON

STATEMENT NUMBER: WITN0040_02

EXHIBITS: 0

DATED: Feb 10, 2022

POST OFFICE HORIZON IT INQUIRY

SECOND WITNESS STATEMENT OF JOSEPHINE HAMILTON

THIS STATEMENT IS PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO THE RULE 9 REQUEST OF THE
PUBLIC INQUIRY DATED 28/01/2022

I, MRS JOSEPHINE HAMILTON, Date of Birth **GRO**, of **GRO**
GRO will say as follows:-

**YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE COMPUTER WEEKLY AND BBC WALES
REPORTING IN 2009**

1. I was interviewed by Rebecca Thomson who worked for Computer Weekly in 2008 and the article was eventually printed in 2009.
2. Alan Bates and Noel Thomas who lived in Wales also took part in the interview, and BBC Wales therefore decided to make a programme about the scandal. The people making the programme, made contact with me and arranged for Noel along with his daughter to come to my shop to make the TV

programme. This was filmed on 13 and 14 August 2009 and was aired on the 8 September 2009.

THE BACKGROUND TO YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITH THE JFSA

3. I was sentenced by the Winchester Crown Court in February 2008 and because of the overwhelming support I received from my customers in the village, my story made the national newspapers.
4. This immediately led to people ringing me up and telling me they/someone they knew had had the same thing happen to them. The villagers also started trawling the internet and together we found a website called "Post Office Victims.Org". This had been set up by Alan Bates in 2002 to try and raise awareness of what was going on at the Post Office. Alan and I made contact. He had been in communication with Tony Collins at Computer Weekly since 2002. They were putting together an article on the post office. More publicity resulted in more victims coming forward and Alan decided it would be best to have a meeting. On 8 November 2009, 17 sub postmasters met at the Fenny Compton village Hall.

YOUR FIRST MEETING WITH LORD ARBUTHNOT AND EARLY POLITICAL MEETINGS

5. While all this was going on I had a meeting with my MP James Arbuthnot. He has been a massive support throughout all of this and continues campaigning to this day.
6. Seema Misra (a fellow Sub-postmistress) saw the Computer weekly article and turned up at my shop. I took her to my solicitor and neighbour Issy Hogg.

Issy managed to get the trial adjourned while a computer expert was appointed. The Post Office did not disclose vital documents to enable proper analysis by the computer expert to take place. Seema was subsequently found guilty and sent to prison. I was so upset and angry I immediately contacted James Arbuthnot. This was sometime in October 2010.

7. James then rattled many cages and managed to get the "Mediation Scheme" set up. Regrettably however this turned into somewhat of a farce.
8. Second Sight came on the scene and started investigating in good faith what was happened with the Post Office but when they started unearthing the dreadful truth, they were sacked and their report was rubbished by Post Office

HOW AND WHEN YOU BECAME INVOLVED IN THE BATES & ORS LITIGATION

9. I had met an amazing lady at a village event just before my sentencing, Kay Linnell. She was a very well-connected forensic accountant and having listened to my plight over the years she jumped on board to help.
10. The ever-growing group needed legal help to take the Post Office to the High Court. Kay and Alan set about the task of finding a great legal team and looking at the issue of funding any legal action. They made a great team, and I was always around to offer those involved emotional support when needed. We were and still are a wonderful team and Alan has devoted his life to this cause.
11. Having sourced lawyers and secured funding the Post Office legal action began.
12. There was two trials and I attended Court almost every day. I also gave evidence in the mediation. We won both trials comprehensively.

**HOW AND WHEN YOU BECAME INVOLVED IN THE HAMILTON V POST
OFFICE PROCEEDINGS**

13. Despite the success of the Bates litigation, my criminal conviction still stood.

It was important that I got this conviction quashed. I made contact with Karl Turner MP, as he had been actively following the litigation and suggested I talk to Neil Hudgell. The rest is history.

Statement Of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed:

GRO

Position Or

Office Held:

Print Full

Name: JOSEPHINE HAMILTON

Date of signature: Feb 10, 2022

