

Payroll assistant stole £300,000 from recruitment firm over 5 years

BIRMINGHAM POST – November 3rd 2016

A PAYROLL assistant who plundered more than £300,000 from a Birmingham recruitment agency where she worked has been jailed for two-and-half years.

Ewa Bieniak “frittered away” the money she stole from the company which was forced to lay off three employees at the height of her dishonesty. Bieniak, the mother of a teenage daughter, carried out the fraud on Team Support Midlands, based in Hockley, over a five-year period, between 2010 and 2015.

Her job involved logging hours worked by temporary staff and payments made to them.

But suspicion fell on her when a former employee received a letter from Her Majesty’s Custom and Revenue claiming tax was owed when in fact she was no longer working for TSM.

An investigation revealed that Bieniak had been using the details of 13 ex-employees, creating aliases and then making payments into three accounts she held at Barclays and Lloyds.

Aliya Rashid, prosecuting at Birmingham Crown Court, said Bieniak, who claimed she had been in debt to the tune of around £40,000 when quizzed, had taken around £306,000. In passing sentence Recorder John Edwards said: “You indulged for a long time in a significant fraud involving a company which trusted you implicitly. It was calculated and it was well thought out and involved the use of aliases in an attempt to make the transactions as inconspicuous as possible.

On any view it was a breach of trust by you. It was a business struggling to stay viable in difficult times.

“It was a business struggling to stay viable in difficult times. The business lost a lot of goodwill.” Recorder John Edwards

Thirteen employees had their details compromised and the manager had to lay off three member of his team. The business lost a lot of goodwill.”

Bieniak, 37, of Bloomfield Road, Tipton, admitted a charge of fraud.

Defending, Regan Peggs, said Bieniak and her husband had moved to the UK from Poland in 2007 and had both worked hard, adding: “It is part of the tragedy of this case is that the depression identified has lead to the compulsive manner of this offence which then became a habit. “The money has been frittered away. She is deeply ashamed of the example she has set for her teenage daughter.”