

Money laundering – Miss Philips

Script and practice exercise - Bail

The defendant Miss Phillips is charged with theft of money from the accountancy office she works at. There are 25 charged involving \$100,000. It will be six months before a trial can be held. The question of bail pending trial is now being considered.

Prosecutor: May it please the court, Police oppose bail.

We have not yet been able to complete our investigations into the offending. The defendant used a complicated system of disguising the thefts including the use of overseas bank accounts. When interviewed, the defendant has refused to say anything, and we are concerned that she will interfere with the evidence and witnesses if she was released on bail. Police seek further time to complete the investigations before the defendant is considered for release on bail.

Magistrate: Miss Phillips, you have heard what the Police have said. They oppose your release on bail. What do you have to say about being held in custody on these charges?

Miss Phillips: I strongly deny these charges, I did not commit these thefts. I do not have a lawyer and will be representing myself and if I am in custody, I will not be able to properly prepare my own defence.

Would you grant or refuse bail? Why or why not? If granted bail are there any conditions you would impose?

