

ROYAL COURT
(Samedi Division)

8.

17th January, 1997

Before: Sir Philip Bailhache, Bailiff, and
Jurats Vibert and Potter

The Attorney General

- v -

Channel Islands Co-Operative Society, Limited

1 count of failing to protect food from risk of contamination, contrary to Article 8 of the Food Hygiene (General Provisions) (Jersey) Order, 1967, by failing to take reasonable steps to deal with an active mouse infestation as quickly as reasonable.

Plea: facts admitted.

Details of Offences:

Between 15th February and 10th March, 1996, the company failed to deal speedily with an infestation of rodents. Faeces and urine were found on the outside wrappings of bakery products; holes allowing rodents to enter and leave the premises were found; mouse droppings found on floor under bakery shelves.

Details of Mitigation:

One previous conviction in 1972 under Article 4(1) of the Food and Drugs (Jersey) Law, 1966 - selling a loaf of bread containing a cigarette end. Sophisticated procedures for dealing with protection of food. Court assured that no food was sold which was unfit for consumption and offence would not reoccur.

Previous Convictions:

8th September, 1972 - Magistrate's Court. Contravention of Article 4(1) as stated above - fined £25. 26th March, 1982 - Magistrate's Court - failed to pay public parking excess charge - fined £5.

Conclusions:

1967 Law had not been amended and the Crown therefore moved for the maximum penalty - £100 fine.

Sentence and Observations of the Court:

£100 fine. Bailiff remarked that the Court expressed the hope that urgent attention would be given to amending the Law.

Mrs. S. Sharpe, Crown Advocate.
Advocate P. de C. Mourant for the Defendant Company.

NO RECORDED JUDGMENT.