

Billingsgate Fish Market manager jailed for 32 months for £95,000 theft

- [Tristan Kirk](#)
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Desperate: Roshan Persad tried to blame the losses on the G4S security firm Central News

The manager of London's historic Billingsgate Fish Market who stole nearly £95,000 from traders' rent to feed his gambling addiction has been jailed for two years and eight months.

Roshan Persad, 48, stole the money from the market's landlord over an 18-month period.

He tried to shuffle funds around the market's accounts to hide the missing sums, logging thousands of pounds of credit notes from traders to make it seem as though they were in arrears. Persad even suggested G4S guards had lost the cash while transporting it to the bank.

Persad, from Hornchurch in Essex, denied the charges but a jury at the Old Bailey found him guilty of six counts of theft, seven of false accounting and one of fraud by abuse of position.

Recorder Karim Khalil QC, sentencing, said: "You used the money to fund your gambling habit, which was far worse than you were prepared to admit.

"As the losses mounted, you were left with few options: pay back the money from other sources, confess to your employers and seek support, or cover up the losses and hope no one would identify you as the thief — you chose the latter course."

Appendix 1: London Evening Standard Report

Persad, who was employed by the City of London Corporation, started dipping into the accounts in March 2011. Prosecutor Louis French told the trial Persad was responsible for taking in about £700,000 in rent from stall holders.

By March 2013 a large shortfall was spotted by a Corporation of London accountant.

The court heard Persad, who used to be a police officer in his native Trinidad and has recently been employed as a hospital maintenance worker, has put his family home up for sale in a bid to pay back the stolen money.