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Woman who helped cheat later helps in his arrest

OVER two months this year, a property agent went from using criminal proceeds to post bail for a cheat to helping police get their man.

Koh Hui Li, 30, yesterday pleaded guilty to using money earned from a crime to bail out the man she later helped police to nab.

She will be sentenced next month.

A district court heard that in January last year, she had arranged for Quah Lai Meng and his girlfriend Goh Mei Yin, both 33, to rent an apartment off Bartley Road.

Quah was then under investigation for using dud cheques to top up a number of DBS Bank's Cashline credit facility accounts in his and his friends' names. He did this by drawing cash from these credit lines before the cheques bounced.

When he was arrested in the apartment on Jan 22 last year – in front of Koh and Goh – he had already defrauded the bank of \$2.1 million.

Three days later, his girlfriend was advised by police to turn in all the proceeds from his crime.

However, when Goh, a jewellery store clerk, found an envelope containing \$113,000 hidden in the bedroom she shared with Quah, she passed it to Koh for safekeeping.

The property agent used some of the money to settle her credit cards bills. Two weeks later, upon Goh's request, she used \$100,000 of the money to post bail for Quah.

The man, released from custody, went into hiding and missed his court dates, so a warrant of arrest was issued.

When Koh was out on bail after investigations into her offence were completed, she helped in Quah's capture.

She arranged to meet him on April 5 at Parkway Parade, where police were waiting to arrest him.

He was sentenced to 10 years in jail in August.

Yesterday, Koh admitted knowing that the \$113,000 came from Quah's crime, and that the money should have been turned over to the police.

Her lawyer Ravinderpal Singh, pleading for leniency, said the mother of two had returned all the money and had helped the police re-arrest Quah.

She could be fined up to \$500,000 and jailed for up to seven years.

Goh's case will be heard on Monday.

KHUSHWANT SINGH