

THE FRAUD REPORTER

Welcome to the Summer Edition of The Fraud Reporter

Welcome to the Summer edition of the Fraud Reporter, the Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB newsletter to keep you up-to-date with fraud issues affecting the Health Board and wider NHS.

Covid-19 continues to have a massive impact on the NHS. We have all had to adjust ways of working and respond to the new disease. Fraud and scams exploded in the wake of the emerging pandemic with unscrupulous fraudsters recognising the crisis as an opportunity to target people and organisations to line their own pockets. In August 2020 we reported that Corona-

virus related frauds had increased by 400%; this is still the case today.

We are regularly updated of specific threats to the NHS arising from Covid-19 and have been working in the background to make colleagues aware of this and assess the risk to the Health Board. We've also been updating everyone on emerging scams doing the rounds via the intranet page.

Introductions to the newest members of the Counter Fraud team

Beverley Jones

Local Counter Fraud Specialist.

Bev arrived at Cwm Taf Morgannwg as the Local Counter Fraud Specialist with 34 years of criminal investigative experience.

Bev worked as a Police Officer for South Wales Police, stationed in the Aberdare Valley before joining Rhondda Cynon Taf Council in 2003 and taking up a post as a Counter Fraud Investigator in 2005.

Bev has a wealth of experience in criminal investigative work and benefit fraud.

Alison Williams

Local Counter Fraud Specialist.

Alison is the recently appointed Local Counter Fraud Specialist for Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board.

In 2005 Alison left the Department for Work and Pensions having secured a role with a Local Authority as a Compliance Officer before joining the Counter Fraud Team in 2007.

Alison joins us after gaining significant previous experience as a Corporate Fraud Investigator in a Local Authority.

Inside this issue:

Aneurin Bevan worker conned GP Surgery out of £4k	2
Fake cancer GoFundMe fundraising fraud	2
COVID-19 Vaccination Scam	2
Counter Fraud Survey 2020—Results	3
LCFS Contact Details	4

Fraud Awareness Training

Remote Training Available

One of the key aims of an LCFS is to develop an anti-fraud culture within the Health Board and ensure that staff can spot fraud when it occurs so something can be done about it.

Training can be tailored to the fraud risks for your specific work area and can be delivered at a time and place that suits you and your team.

Contact the LCFS to arrange your fraud training:

Tel: 01443 443824

Email:

Beverley.Jones262f07@wales.nhs.uk

Alison.Williams97c4c@wales.nhs.uk

As always get in touch if you have any fraud concerns.
Our contact details on the back page.



Aneurin Bevan worker conned GP Surgery out of £4,000

Aberbeeg GP surgery manager conned NHS out of nearly £4k.

The member of staff was employed as an office manager at Aberbeeg Medical Centre, Abertillery. One of her roles was to bank cash payments made by patients for medical reports, letters etc..

The office manager was caught out when she went on holiday and the Practice Manager became aware of banking irregularities in relation to cash income at the Medical Centre.

The Practice Manager contacted the member of staff via "WhatsApp" to query the banking of cash income and she responded that the income had been banked prior

to her holiday. Bank statements indicated that this response was untruthful and it was at this stage that the matter was referred to the Local Counter Fraud Specialists in Aneurin Bevan University Health Board.

The office manager appeared before Newport Magistrates Court in July 2020, where she pleaded guilty to Fraud by Abuse of Position between April 2018 and August 2019.

She stated that she needed to pay off debts because of an addiction to shopping and spending money.

During the hearing, Judge Martin Brown said "This was a gross breach of trust and she will have to pay the money back".

The office manager was jailed for six months, suspended for two years and ordered to complete a 20 day rehabilitation activity requirement.

She was also ordered to repay £3,882.70 plus costs £85.00 plus a Victim Surcharge of £115.00.



COVID-19 Vaccination Scam

Women guilty of fake cancer GoFundMe fundraising fraud

A woman who faked a cancer diagnosis to claim more than £45k in donations has been convicted of fraud.

Nicole Elkabbas 42, of Broadstairs, Kent, set up an online fundraising campaign claiming she needed money to pay for private treatment for ovarian cancer.

Police began their investigation after a doctor, who had recently given her the all clear, raised suspicions.

Elkabbas appeared before Canterbury Crown Court in November 2020, where she pleaded not guilty, but was convicted of fraud and possessing criminal property.

The court hear that in February 2017 Elkabbas set up a GoFundMe campaign, which said she had just weeks to raise money for a

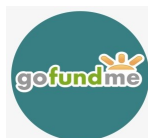
major surgery in Spain. She claimed a costly "break through drug" could improve her chances and included an image of her lying in a hospital bed.

The court heard that the image had actually been taken during routine surgery several months prior.

After she "tricked" people into donating, she "fritted" the money on foreign travel, football tickets and online gambling.

GoFundMe refunded all donations when the misuse allegations were raised.

Elkabbas appeared before Canterbury Crown Court on 10th February 2021, where she received a 2 years and 9 months prison sentence.



GOV.UK/coronavirus

Government Counter Fraud Function

NHS Counter Fraud Authority

BE ALERT TO VACCINE FRAUD

Criminals are using the COVID-19 vaccine as a way to target the public by tricking them to hand over cash or financial details. They are sending convincing-looking text messages letting people know they are eligible for the vaccine or phoning people directly pretending to be from the NHS, or local pharmacy.

PEOPLE ARE WARNED TO BE ALERT TO THESE SCAMS

The NHS will:

- NEVER ask for payment - the vaccine is free
- NEVER ask for your bank details
- NEVER arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine
- NEVER ask you to prove your identity by sending copies of personal documents such as your passport

4 NHS: We have identified that you are eligible to apply for your vaccine. For more information and to apply, follow here: [ask.nhs.uk/vaccine-form](#)

FAKE

Challenge - Could it be fake? Check to ensure it is genuine at **GOV.UK**

Do not respond to text messages that try to get you to send money or personal information

Use official government websites

Challenge unannounced callers to your home

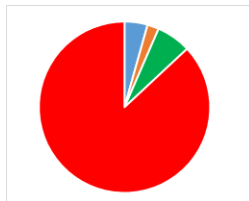
Counter Fraud Survey 2020 — Results

A big ‘thank you’ to everyone who took part in the survey

100% stated that they would contact Payroll or inform their line manager if they noticed they have been paid too much.

What action can be taken against an employee if they fail to report incorrect payment of wages ?

- All of the above
- Disciplinary Action
- Criminal Action
- Civil Action



You have a close relative whose company supplies goods to the NHS. The Health Board is looking to contract a supplier to supply similar goods. You are asked to be involved in the process of deciding which supplier to use. What should you do?

98% would declare relationship as a potential conflict of interest.

You notice that you have made an incorrect claim on your travel expenses, what should you do?

- Inform Payroll Staff expenses.
- Inform your Manager.



You receive an unexpected email from your I.T provider advising you that your account has been suspended due to a security breach. The email asks you to click on a link to enable you to confirm your security details. The email states that, once you have been successful in doing this, the suspension of your account will then be lifted. What should you do?

The majority of staff would not click on the link and they would report the email to the I.T Security department.

You are rostered to work a 10 hour shift. It is quiet, so you finish two hours early. What would you record on your timesheet?

100% stated that they would record the actual hours they worked.

You are offered two tickets from the Marketing Director of a company that the Health Board contracts with. The tickets are for a large sporting event and have a value of £100 each. In line with the Health Board’s policy and procedures, what action should you take?

- Accept tickets, inform line manager, record on Gifts Hospitality Form
- Thank Marketing Director, decline tickets and record on Gifts Hospitality Form



You have been signed off from work for two weeks by your GP, with no exemptions and are receiving sick pay. What other work are you allowed to do during this period?

96% stated no other work was allowed whilst on sickness absence.

4% stated that they had concerns around fraud, bribery and/or corruption within their team/department.

Concerns were reported to:

- Anonymously



Further Information

With fraud and cyber crime on the rise across the UK its a good idea that we all know how to deal with scams if we find ourselves unlucky enough to be in that situation. Action Fraud lead the fight against fraud and cyber scams in the UK and they have issued some simple rules to follow to stay safe.

Following this link for Action Fraud <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

YOU CAN SEARCH COUNTER FRAUD ON THE CWM TAF MORGANNWG INTRANET FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

The Health Board's Counter Fraud Team are responsible for raising awareness of fraud, preventing fraud through 'fraud proofing' exercises and investigating fraud where uncovered.

The Counter Fraud Team are always happy to offer advice about NHS fraud, bribery and corruption.

The LCFS is available to support, guide and assist on all fraud, bribery and corruption matters. If you need any advice on fraud or if you want to request counter fraud training for your team please contact your LCFS.

The Counter Fraud Team

Matthew Evans—Head of Local Counter Fraud Services

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Alison Williams —Local Counter Fraud Specialist

☎ 01443 443824

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You can also make a report anonymously you can call the Fraud & Corruption Reporting Line on

0800 028 40 60

or search 'NHS Fraud' online for more information.

STOP NHS FRAUD

www.reportnhsfraud.nhs.uk

0800 028 4060

POWERED BY CRIMESTOPPERS