

THE FRAUD REPORTER

Welcome to the Autumn Edition of The Fraud Reporter

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Fraud Reporter, the Swansea Bay 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 coronavirus 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 Coronavirus 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.



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

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A doctor has been given a suspended sentence after admitting defrauding the NHS out of nearly £68,000.

Dr Aled Jones, 39, was employed at the University Hospital of Wales (UHW) Cardiff as a registrar when he carried out the frauds, which took place between 2016 and 2019.

Over a two year period, Jones, stole 420 cheques from its bereavement services department where he was trusted with codes to unlock the office.

Jones noticed old cheques which had not been cashed by another doctor and he set up a bank account in their name.

He also amended and filled in cheques and made them payable to himself, cashing nearly £34,000 between March 2017 and March 2019.

Prosecutor Christian Jowett said: "He said he would get cheques from the office to pay off an enormous debt problem through gambling and thought there was no victim. He said he would go back and steal more cheques when he needed money quickly.

In addition, Jones claimed for locum shifts worth £34,000 at different hospitals between 2016 and 2019 with Aneurin Bevan health board, Cardiff and Vale health board, Cwm Taf health board and Abertawe Bro Morgannwg health board.

But many of these overlapped with each other so Jones would be working more than one non-residential on-call shift for two hospitals at once, risking a situation where he might have been called out to two patients at the same time.

He also carried out on-call shifts during his contracted hours at UHW and also made claims for payment for shifts he did not work.

At Cardiff Crown Court, Jones pleaded guilty to fraud by abuse of position and fraud by false representation. He was sentenced to two years imprisonment suspended for two years and was ordered to carry out 200 hours of unpaid work. Jones has been ordered to repay £66,000.

Fraud Awareness Sessions

Remote Sessions 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.

Sessions 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 session:

☎ 01443 443824

beverley.jones262f07@wales.nhs.uk



NHS finance chief sentenced for triple job fraud

Stephen Day fraudulently occupied three full time senior NHS positions at once.

From November 2012 to January 2013, Day simultaneously held full time interim Director of Finance or equivalent posts with Merseyside Commissioning Support Unit (CSU); South East Staffordshire and Seisdon Peninsula Clinical Commissioning Group (SESSP CCG); and Cheshire and Wirral Partnership Trust (CWPT). He failed to disclose his employment to all three organisations.

Day worked as a full time Director of Finance for both Merseyside CSU and SESSP CCG between 1st November 2012 and 14th January 2013. This enabled him to fraudulently earn a combined sala-

ry of £2000 a day. During this period, in December 2012 he accepted a third simultaneous NHS Director of Finance position, with CWPT. The total loss to the NHS amounted to £88,000.

On top of his NHS posts, he had extensive private business interests to run. Day declined to use NHS mobile phones and laptops and was only available through the personal assistant at his private business.

The NHSCFA were assisted by Greater Manchester Police with the arrest of Stephen Day and subsequent property searches. Greater Manchester Police later launched their

own investigation into Day after receiving four separate allegations against Stephen Day which amounted to over £1.3 million in suspected fraudulent activity.

Day pleaded guilty to 12 charges of fraud and theft, including three counts relating to the NHS, but disputed the amounts he had stolen for the Greater Manchester Police investigation. Day was sentenced on all 12 counts, with all sentences to run consecutively, totalling 11 years and 5 months. Day is to serve a minimum of half of the sentence in prison, with the remainder on licence.



Aid worker resigns after being convicted of £38,000 NHS Fraud

Sheila Loveridge resigned from her role at Médecins Sans Frontières after the charity was made aware that she had been convicted of defrauding the NHS of nearly £38,000.

Loveridge was a Band 8c infection prevention control inspector at the North East London Commissioning Support Unit and was one of the highest-earning nurses in England.

A London court heard that between 25 October 2018 and 6 June 2019 Loveridge received £38,428 in sick pay after claiming she was unfit for work during this time due to back pain.

An NHS England and NHS Improvement investigation found she was doing undeclared consultancy work for a private health provider at the time.

Loveridge, who has been a registered nurse for 27 years, resigned from her NHS job during the investigation.

She pleaded guilty to fraud by failure to disclose at Westminster Magistrates' Court on 27 April 2021. She appeared before Southwark Crown Court where she received a 16-month prison sentence, suspended for two years and was ordered to pay a £500 fine and £425 in costs.

Loveridge voluntarily repaid the sick pay she received to the NHS and has been referred to the Nursing & Midwifery Council.

Loveridge has been working for MSF Easter Africa in Nairobi Kenya, as an infection prevention and control adviser.

Essex IT Manager pleads guilty to £800,000 NHS fraud

Barry Stannard was a former Band 8b senior IT manager for what was Mid Essex Hospital Trust (MEHT).

Stannard was the director of two companies that were set up as suppliers to the NHS and he would forward emails to colleagues which "supposedly came from people working at the companies", but there was "no evidence" they worked at the firms. Stannard would "encourage colleagues to choose" quotes from the two companies.

The hundreds of invoices submitted by his own companies to MEHT were all individually for modest amounts, meaning Stannard was authorised to sign them off without further checks.

On the invoices he submitted, he also charged VAT which was never forwarded to HMRC. The VAT he

charged the NHS totalled an excess of £132,000. This is included in the total of £806,229.80 that Stannard defrauded the NHS.

In this case, concerns first arose after the trust ran a data matching exercise on its payroll and accounts payable records, alongside Companies House records.

Stannard admitted that neither company had provided any legitimate products or services to MEHT.

Stannard appeared before Chelmsford Crown Court where he pleaded guilty to two charges of fraud by false representation and two charges of cheating the public revenue.

He was sentenced to five years and four months imprisonment

WHEN DID YOU LAST CHECK YOUR PAYSリップ?

You should check your pay advice slip every week or month for accuracy, and notify your manager and Payroll Services, both verbally and in writing, of any errors you find.

When an employee has a change in circumstances which will affect their pay, the Electronic Staff Record system (ESR) must be updated and the appropriate amendments are then made to their salary. Examples of changes that affect salary could be:

- ◆ A reduction in contract hours
- ◆ A change in grade
- ◆ Termination of employment



In the vast majority of cases these changes are made smoothly, and no payment errors occur. However instances do arise where the necessary forms may not be sent (due to an oversight) or get lost in transit, or changes to the ESR system are not made resulting in an employee continuing to receive salary payments which they are not entitled to. If this goes uncorrected for some time, a substantial overpayment may occur.

Whilst the employee may well not be at fault for this overpayment initially occurring, they do have a responsibility to notify Payroll Services and their manager if they are aware that they are receiving monies which they are not entitled to.

In October 2019, a Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board employee who received salary overpayment payments totalling more than £21,000 was charged with theft, and received a suspended prison sentence after entering a guilty plea. Even though the overpayments started as a result of an error made by the Health Board, the individual exploited the situation and made no attempt to inform the Health Board that they were receiving monies which they were not entitled to.

If an employee knowingly retains salary that has been paid to them in error they may be committing an offence, and this may result in criminal, disciplinary and/or civil action.

Anyone spotting an error in their pay should contact their manager, and the Payroll Service Department Enquiries Line on 02920 903908



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/>

Further advice is available from the Take Five—To Stop Fraud campaign which is a Government backed initiative to reduce fraud <https://takefive-stopfraud.org.uk/about/take-five/>

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

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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