



Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

Audit & Risk Committee – 19 April 2023

Counter Fraud Progress Report

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1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to update the Audit Committee on key areas of work undertaken by the Health Board Local Counter Fraud Specialists (LCFS) since the last meeting.

2. BACKGROUND

The following sets out activity under the Key Principles specified within the Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Standards for NHS Bodies (Wales).

3. RESOURCE UTILISATION

AREA OF WORK	Planned Days	Days to Date
Strategic Governance		
Ensuring that anti-crime measures are embedded at all levels across the organisation	45	52
Inform and Involve		
Identifying the risks and consequences of crime against the NHS, and raising awareness of these risks amongst NHS staff, stakeholders, and the public.	125	97
Prevent and Deter		
Discouraging those who may want to commit crimes against the NHS and ensure that such opportunities are minimised.	125	149
Hold to Account		
Detecting and investigating crime, prosecuting those who have committed crimes and seeking redress as a result.	321	318
TOTAL	616	616

4. STRATEGIC GOVERNANCE

A Counter Fraud Work Plan (Appendix 1) setting out intended activity for 2023/24 has been developed and is presented alongside the Counter Fraud Annual Report 2022/23 (Appendix 2) and draft Functional Standard Return 2022/23 (Appendix 3) for the Committee to review.

5. INFORM AND INVOLVE

The Health Board's programme of awareness for 2022/23 has concluded with an

increase in attendees at a counter fraud awareness training session of over 140% when compared with 2021/22 attendance figures. This is a movement in the right direction but still only represents 1.5% of total staff headcount reached with training and this is below All Wales average. This remains an area to drive forward into 2023/24.

Alongside this contact to the Counter Fraud Team has increased in 2022/23, which may be indicative of increased awareness borne from the other communication mechanisms deployed by the Counter Fraud Team.

Further analysis of the Health Board's awareness levels will be undertaken in 2023/24 with a view to developing informative KPIs beyond attendance at training sessions. Capture of contact and engagement information is being undertaken by the Team into the new year to support this.

6. PREVENT AND DETER

Work around the Health Board's National Fraud Initiative matched dataset has commenced and is proceeding. First assessments of data 210 records related to Payroll to Payroll matches have been completed. These matches are focussed on assessing dual working and working elsewhere whilst sick. Assessment involves accessing employment information for each match and querying any discrepancy and/or concern with the secondary employer. This is reversed where the Health Board is assessed as the secondary employer itself.

Focus will switch to first assessment of Payroll to Creditors and Payroll to Companies House data matches. These data sets look to match Health Board employees with entities with which the Health Board engages with for supply of goods and services. This can highlight potential procurement fraud and/or corruption or undeclared interests.

Review of these matches involves accessing employment records of each payroll match to assess role in line with the records of the procurement of goods/services the matched entity has provided.

A full report will be brought for the Committee's perusal in June 2023 in line with Audit Wales recommendation response.

7. HOLD TO ACCOUNT

The issue around lack of capability of Counter Fraud Services being able to access and carry out Police National Computer checks via NHS Counter Fraud Authority has been resolved. Cases are now able to progress to Crown Prosecution Service without hold awaiting checks to be undertaken on witnesses and suspects as is required.

The status of the LCFS investigative caseload is summarised in Appendix 4 to this report. A summary of basic investigation KPI data is presented.

Case information presented is split by between those cases which are currently open and under active investigation by the LCFS; contained in the Open Cases table.

The Pending Cases table reflects those cases where active investigation by the LCFS has concluded, however the case must remain open due to other outstanding actions from third parties such as (but not limited to) disciplinary, professional body enquiries, financial recoveries.

A table of Closed Cases is also presented to review outcomes of investigations.