

THE FRAUD REPORTER

Welcome to the Summer Edition of The Fraud Reporter

Welcome to the Summer 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 has had 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.

We were 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 on the back page.



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Student nurse claimed £60k in bogus NHS bursaries

A student nurse dishonestly claimed £60,000 in NHS bursaries after falsely claiming to be a single mother despite being married.

Annaliese Slater received the money while studying at three different universities over a decade, Liverpool Crown Court heard.

The 45-year-old, who was married to a soldier, admitted nine

offences of fraud by false representation.

She received a 10 month jail term, suspended for 18 months.

The court was told how Slater never even qualified and deprived another would-be nurse of a training placement.

In total, she received more than £110,000 in payments from the NHS, more than half of which were claimed illegally.

The mother-of-three, of Ashlea Road, Birkenhead, who is no longer with her husband, claimed the cash under the NHS student bursary scheme between February 2008 and January 2018.

She initially applied for a

bursary while studying nursing at Bucks New University and claimed she was a single mother having separated from her husband.

She went on to study at Anglia Ruskin University and the University of Chester while still receiving the payments.

The Royal Military Police contacted NHS fraud investigators in 2015 when Slater and her husband were in the genuine process of separation and divorce.

Judge Stuart Driver said a psychiatric report showed Slater's traits included "an obsessive altruistic desire to nurse injured soldiers".

He took into account that she was the sole carer for her school-age children,

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: 01792 517872

Email: zoe.whetton@wales.nhs.uk

and was a hard worker who suffered from anxiety and depression.

As well as the suspended sentence, Slater was ordered her to carry out 25 days of rehabilitation activities and 70 hours in unpaid work. She must also pay £500 towards the prosecution costs.



Student Bursaries

Hywel Dda worker forged 25 sick notes and conned NHS out of £18,000

A Community Resilience Coordinator based in Llanelli admitted fraud by submitting false Statements of Fitness for Work Statements.

Swansea Crown Court heard that Edward Dewar, 37, of Maes Yr Haf, Llanelli submitted false 'sick notes' to his manager between September 2017 and February 2019, citing conditions such as Ménière's disease and tonsillitis.

As part of the process, he had to present fitness for work certificates and his line manager was in regular contact with him to obtain them.

After some issue obtaining the documents Dewar sent them to his manager via email in October 2018, who became concerned they were not genuine

as the reference number attached to each document was the same.

The line manager referred the issue to the HR department who in turn referred the matter to the Counter fraud team. They got in touch with Dewar's GP surgery who confirmed that each document should have a unique reference number and that no two would be the same.

Swansea Crown Court heard that Dewar had submitted 30 certificates, of which 25 were forged.

Dewar appeared before Swansea Crown Court for sentencing having admitted committing fraud by dishonestly making false representations on the certificates which he

know contained false information, intending to make a gain for himself, namely employer and statutory sickness payments to which he was not entitled.

Sentencing Dewar, Judge Keith Thomas described the offending as "deliberate and protracted fraud".

Dewar was given a seven-month prison sentence, suspended for 18 months, and he must pay £2,000 compensation.



Man charged with fraud 'for staying at hotel for NHS workers'

A man has been charged with fraud after allegedly spending six free nights at a hotel by claiming to be an NHS worker.

Ben Quince, 30, checked into the Casa Hotel in Lockoford Lane, Chesterfield, at the end of March on a floor reserved for health workers, Derbyshire Police said.

He is said to have stayed there for six nights after telling staff he worked in the A&E department at Chesterfield Royal Hospital.

The hotel is offering complimentary lodgings for NHS staff during the Covid-19 pandemic, the force said.

Quince, of no fixed address, has been charged with fraud by false representation.

He will be appearing in Court at a later date.



Governance manager ordered to pay back £220,000 to NHS after fraud

An NHS manager jailed for fraud in 2018 has been ordered to pay back £220,431.48 he defrauded from the NHS (Snaresbrook Crown Court, 4 October 2019)

Michael Inije, 58, of Stainforth Road, Newbury Park, Ilford was employed as the Deputy Accounts and Governance Manager at North East London Commissioning Support Unit.

In May 2017, a colleague of Inije noticed that a £18,536.95 invoice submitted for payment by a company called DAVII J SERVICES LTD was not clear about the services it had provided to NHS Newham CCG.

The suspect payment was for claims support given to Continuing Healthcare (CHC) case assessments and reviews, services

allegedly provided in March 2017. The invoice was approved by Mr Inije, who would not normally approve payments relating to CHC.

All invoices for DAVII J SERVICES LTD were sent only to Inije for approval. NHS investigators discovered that the company's sole director was Inije and that between November 2013 and May 2017 he submitted and approved a further 24 invoices.

Inije pleaded guilty to Fraud by Abuse of Position in October 2018 and was sentenced to 3 years 9 months imprisonment.

Proceeds of Crime Act investigation established that Inije has £220,431.48 in available assets, earmarked for the NHS.

Coronavirus-related frauds increase by 400%

Law enforcement, government and private sectors partners are working together to encourage members of the public to be more vigilant against fraud, particularly about sharing their financial and personal information, as criminals seek to capitalise on the Covid-19 pandemic.

Criminals are experts at impersonating people, organisations (e.g. your bank or HMRC) and the police.

Social Engineering

Social Engineering is defined as "The clever manipulation of the natural human tendency to trust." It's easier to trick you into opening an infected email than it is to hack into your account. Due to this, social engineering has become much more prominent, and cyber criminals are trying more diverse ways to get people to undertake tasks, provide information or hand over money using these techniques.

Types of social engineering;

Phishing – fraudulent emails sent by cyber criminals pretending to be someone else, for example a bank, NHS or government department. The aim of the email is to install malicious software on your device or obtain Personal Identifiable Information including login credentials.

Spoofing – is the act of disguising a communication from an unknown source as being from a known, trusted source. This can apply to emails, phone calls and websites.

Smishing – fraudulent text messages purporting to be from reputable companies in order to get individuals to reveal personal information, such as passwords or financial details.

Vishing – criminals making phone calls or leaving voice messages pretending to be from reputable organisation in order to induce individuals to reveal personal information such as bank details and credit card numbers.

STOP

Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe

CHALLENGE

Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.

PROTECT

If attempt is noticed in work, contact the Counter Fraud Team or outside work contact your bank immediately if you think you've fallen for a scam and report it to Action Fraud..



Counter Fraud Authority



Action Fraud
National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre
0300 123 2040

How to protect yourself:

- Don't assume a call, text or email is genuine.
- Never provide financial or personal details to a caller.
- Don't click on website links or download attachments in unexpected texts or emails.
- Phone numbers and emails can be changed (spoofed) and are not proof of identity.
- Challenge every request for your information, money or details.
- Double check requests for your details and verify via a trusted source.

We can't stop crime we don't know is happening

If you suspect a Fraud has occurred in your area of work then please contact Matthew Evans on details below

☎ 01792 618833

✉ matthew.evans20@wales.nhs.uk

Further, up-to-date information around fraud and scam threats emerging as a result of Covid-19 is available on the Health Board's intranet page.

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 SWANSEA BAY 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

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