

Quarter 2
2016/17

Local Counter
Fraud Specialists
(LCFS)

Fraud Awareness



Newsletter

Welcome

Welcome to this edition of the Fraud Awareness Newsletter.

We will provide an update on the latest NHS fraud cases, focusing on cases where fraudsters have used false identities to obtain NHS bursaries, training and employment. There are also statistics on the most common types of crime and tips how to avoid becoming a victim.

While the majority of people who work in or use the NHS are honest, fraud does exist and is a serious issue. Fraud in the NHS, on any scale, diverts resources from patient care and services.

Your Counter Fraud team aims to make people aware that fraud is being tackled. Please see the contact details of the LCFS team overleaf.

In the News....

NHS worker jailed for £93k false identity fraud

A woman who provided false identity documents to secure work as an NHS Student Nurse has been jailed for 16 months, after a joint investigation by NHS Protect and Home Office Immigration Service.

Adaku OKAFOR, 32, of Bristol, was found guilty of four offences under the Fraud Act 2006 and Identity Documents Act 2010 at Bristol Crown Court.

In addition to the sentence of 16 months imprisonment, Judge Harington ordered a victim surcharge and recommended deportation stating "*The Defendant devised a sophisticated method of remaining in UK. The use of false identity documents is taken extremely seriously by Court*".



False documents used to secure training and employment

Adaku OKAFOR secured NHS employment for eight years using forged and stolen identity documents, false employment references and fake European Union (EU) documentation. OKAFOR was also awarded a NHS student bursary to fund her nursing training.

NHS Protect said: "*These*

were serious offences committed over a long period of time, with the intent of diverting public money away from the NHS. By taking up a university place, she denied genuine applicants the chance to start their studies and embark upon careers in nursing". **August 2016**

Siblings stole £558K in benefits and NHS bursaries

Two women who posed as sisters and lied about their identity in order to defraud the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) and NHS of over half a million pounds have been jailed for 33 months each at Croydon Crown Court, London following a joint investigation by the DWP and NHS Protect.

"Antoinette Kaidi", of

London, and "Louise Kaidi" of London, between them pleaded guilty to 23 offences of conspiracy to assist unlawful immigration, fraud by false representation, dishonestly making false statements and fraud contrary to section 35 of the Tax Credits Act 2002.

It has been established that the women are not related. The women assuming the

identities of the Kaidi sisters both enrolled in courses to study nursing.

"Antoinette" was convicted of stealing £83,986 from the DWP in false Tax Credit and Income Support payments alongside a further £205,631 from the NHS in training and bursary costs, as well as earnings from the NHS and other employment agencies. "Louise" stole £204,167 from

the DWP in false Tax Credits, Income Support and Housing Benefit payments, plus a further £64,335 from the NHS in training and bursary payments.

NHS Protect said: "*As a result of adopting these false identities, they were able to deceive the NHS and several other government departments*". **June 2016**

Need to Know...

For years fraud was thought of as a "victimless" crime which mainly affected businesses and banks. But the widespread use of computers, laptops and smart-phones to facilitate fraud has changed all that.

According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS), almost six million fraud and cyber crimes were committed last year in England and Wales.

Fraud Statistics

The official Crime Survey for England and Wales findings are startling; we are more likely to be a victim of fraud than any other type of crime,

with one in 10 adults defrauded in the past 12 months.

It estimated there were two million computer misuse offences and 3.8 million fraud offences in the 12 months to the end of March - suggesting fraud is the most common type of crime.

The most common types of fraud experienced were bank and credit account fraud, with 2.5 million incidents, followed by "non-investment" fraud, such as scams related to online shopping, the ONS has said.

Most common crime - fraud

Who is affected

Unlike other crime types, such as robbery, people in rural parts were more vulnerable to fraud than city-dwellers; middle-aged adults were more likely to be victims than those in other age groups; and people in managerial and professional jobs were at greater risk than manual workers, students and the unemployed.

How can we protect ourselves against cybercrime:

- Do not open or click on

any links from unknown senders or suspicious email.

- Ensure computer systems are secure and that antivirus software is up to date.
- Victims of online fraud can contact Action Fraud who will generate a crime reference number, but they won't investigate the incident directly. Contact your local police with this reference number, and contact the website you think may have committed fraud.

Source: BBC News

(<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-36854413>)

Contact your Local Counter Fraud Team

CONCERNED ABOUT FRAUD?

Contact your Local Counter Fraud Specialists (LCFS) team in absolute confidence.



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You can also contact the NHS confidential fraud reporting line on 0800 0284060 and www.reportnhsfraud.nhs.uk

Further details of all NHS fraud prosecutions can be found on the website of NHS Protect at: www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/3378.aspx