



PUBLIC HEALTH WALES NHS TRUST

**Audit and Corporate Governance Committee
20th January 2022**

**Counter Fraud Progress Report
For the period ending 31st December 2021**

**NIGEL PRICE
COUNTER FRAUD
CARDIFF & VALE UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD**

PUBLIC HEALTH WALES NHS TRUST

**AUDIT AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
20th January 2022**

COUNTER FRAUD PROGRESS REPORT

- 1: Introduction**
- 2: Progress Report & General Issues**
- 3: Investigations updates**

Appendix 1: Counter Fraud Plan Summary

Mission Statement

To provide the Trust with a high-quality NHS Counter Fraud Service, which ensures that any report of fraud is investigated in accordance with Welsh Assembly Directions and all such investigations are carried out in a professional and cost-effective manner.

1. INTRODUCTION

In compliance with the Welsh Government Directions on Countering Fraud in the NHS, detailed below is the standing of the current Counter Fraud and Corruption work carried out, by the Trust's Local Counter Fraud Specialist (LCFS), for the period ending 31st December 2021. The purpose of this report is to inform and update, the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee members of counter fraud investigations.

2. PROGRESS AND GENERAL ISSUES

2.1 Fraud Awareness Sessions

Covid-19 has considerably restricted conducting face-to-face fraud awareness presentations. However, 1 fraud awareness session has been delivered through 'Teams' during this reporting period. The feedback from that presentation shows that 100% of the delegates feel more comfortable discussing any concerns they have with the counter fraud service. Invites have been sent to departments to arrange virtual sessions for the organisation's staff.

2.2 CF Resources update

The Counter Fraud department consists of a manager, 2 accredited investigators and one admin support role. Since January 2021 the manager has been on long-term sick leave and will not be returning to his role. In September 2021 the person in the admin support role left to take up another role, as a result of that the department was considerably under resourced.

The decision was made to replace the admin role with an investigator who has now been appointed and will start on the 4th January 2022. The manager's role is advertised with a closing date of the 21st January 2022, it is hoped to have a new CF manager in post by the start of the 2022-23 financial year.

2.3 Recruiting Agency Pre-Employment Risk Assessment Exercise

Following an investigation in another organisation a risk-assessment exercise has been started to test the due diligence checks carried out by recruiting agencies before staff are recommended for employment in Public Health Wales. The exercise is continuing and an update will be presented at the next audit committee.

3. CURRENT CASE UPDATE

3.1 During this reporting period one investigation has been started:

INV/21/00137 Allegation of working while on sick leave.

Information was received that an employee of Public Health Wales was working while on long-term sick leave. Inquiries are continuing.

3.2 At the time this report was submitted a total of **56** days have been spent on counter fraud work within the Trust and the breakdown of this work detailed in **Appendix 1**.

APPENDIX 1

COUNTER FRAUD SUMMARY PLAN ANALYSIS 2020/21

AREA OF WORK	Planned Days	Days to Date
General Requirements		
LCFS Attendance at CFS (Wales) and LCFS All Wales Meetings	4	4
Planning/Preparation of Annual Report and Work Programme	4	3
Production of Reports and attendance at Audit & CG Committee	4	3
Liaison with the DOF, NHS CFA, Welsh Government	4	2.5
Government Functional Standards and QA Assessment	5	4
Liaison with Audit Wales/Internal Audit for WG Report	2	0.5
Annual Activity		
Create an Anti Fraud Culture	10	2
Presentations, Briefings, Newsletters etc.	20	6
Fraud Awareness Events	1	
Deterrence		
Review/develop Policies/Strategies	5	3
Prevention		
The reduction of opportunities for Fraud and Corruption to occur.	4	2
Detection		
Trust/National Pro-Active Exercises (e.g. Procurement)	8	6
National Fraud Initiative (NFI) 2020/21	12	12
Investigation, Sanctions and Redress		
The investigation of any alleged instances of fraud	10	8
Ensure that Sanctions are applied to cases as appropriate	4	
Seek redress, where fraud has been proven to have taken place	3	
TOTAL PUBLIC HEALTH WALES NHS TRUST	100	56