



**NHS WALES
Public Health Wales
(PHW)**

**Counter Fraud Progress Report
01/01/2023 - 31/03/2023**

**GARETH LAVINGTON
COUNTER FRAUD MANAGER
CARDIFF & VALE UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction

2. Progress

Staffing

Activity -

Infrastructure/Annual Plan

FPN/IBURN

Newsletter

Alerts/Bulletins

Awareness sessions

Referrals/Enquiries

Investigations

Other

1. Introduction

In compliance with the Secretary of State for Health's Directions on Countering Fraud in the NHS, this report provides details of the work carried out by the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board's Local Counter Fraud Specialists on behalf of Public Health Wales from 01/01/2023 to 31/03/2023.

The report's format has been adopted in order to update the Audit and Assurance Committee about counter fraud referrals, investigations, activity and operational issues.

At 31st December 2022, 110 days of Counter Fraud work have been completed against the agreed 100 days in the Counter Fraud Annual Work-Plan for the 2022/23 financial year. The days have been used strategically in preparing quarterly and annual reports for, and attending, the organisation's audit committee meetings; and the creation and planning for renewed infrastructure in relation to the organisation's counter fraud response and staff awareness, fraud investigation and proactive fraud risk assessment.

The breakdown of these days is as follows:

TYPE	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3
Proactive	31	25 (56)	25 (81)
Reactive	4	5 (9)	20 (29)
Total	35	30 (65)	45 (110)

2. Progress

Staffing

The team have been fully resourced for the duration of Quarter 4 reporting period.

Activity

Infrastructure/Annual Plan

During this reporting period, work has continued in developing the infrastructure that will allow successful compliance with the Counter Fraud Plan for 2022-2023. In this period the below activity has taken place in relation to this area of work -

- a. The maintenance of a comprehensive activity database which is already assisting in maintaining a detailed and accurate record of work undertaken.
- b. Review of the Counter Fraud Bribery and Corruption Policy – PHW have their own Counter Fraud Bribery and Corruption Policy. This has now been reviewed and amended and with the assistance of the PHW Fraud Champion is at the Audit Committee approval stage.
- c. Maintenance of Counter Fraud digital presence – Fully functional, modern, Counter Fraud Intranet site continues to be developed and improved (Link to the site for reference : [Counter Fraud - Home \(sharepoint.com\)](#))
- d. Counter Fraud e-Learning arrangements – the situation with regard to this remains the same as previously reported. (Development of Counter Fraud education page on the All Wales ‘Learning @ Wales Platform’ is now complete. This awaits the new All Wales eLearning package to be finalised and distributed by the Counter Fraud Service Wales. When complete this will be available to all staff as a, Counter Fraud, education, learning and awareness tool. It will be signposted internally within the organisation and will be available to all staff.)

Fraud Prevention Notices and IBURN notices

(These notices are issued nationally by the NHS Counter Fraud Authority and require action by Local Counter Fraud Teams)

During this reporting period there have been no fraud prevention notices issued by the NHS Counter Fraud Authority. There has been one IBURN

notice issued. This related to a serial fraudster who targets public sector organisations. Checks made with ESR, Health Roster, NFI and Trac and assurance can be provided that this person has not had any employment with the organisation. Request made to Trac and ESR to flag this individual for future reference as a prevention measure.

Newsletter

The latest newsletter has been produced and published and can be viewed at the following links;

[February 2023 Counter Fraud Newsletter \(office.com\)](#)

<https://sway.office.com/enn0HcqsBH3X25hR?ref=email>

or; at the Counter Fraud Team Share Point Pages –

[Counter Fraud - Home \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

Local Alerts/Bulletins

During this reporting period there have been no further fraud alerts issued.

Awareness Sessions

During this reporting period a total of six (6) awareness sessions have been delivered. Three (3) relating to Mandate Fraud and three (3) relating to General fraud awareness. All of these sessions have been delivered remotely on the Microsoft Teams platform.

Referrals/Enquiries

During this reporting period two (2) referrals have been received by the team. Both have been promoted to formal investigation as covered below.

Investigations

1. Anonymous referral received via the online reporting tool that certain staff members had been promoted internally in an unfair/corrupt manner. Investigation carried out, with no issues arising. All processes followed

professionally and in line with policy. No offences disclosed. **Case Closed.**

2. Referral received directly from the organisation that staff member had been working simultaneously for the organisation and another NHS Trust in England. The matter has been fully investigated. The findings have been reported to Medical Director and Executive Director of Finance and a full post-investigation report submitted. Whilst it was established that there were overlaps in work carried out by the subject, there was substantial evidence gathered that undermined any possibility of criminal prosecution. The subject of the investigation has since had their employment with the organisation terminated and the Counter Fraud investigation has now been closed.

Other

Work has commenced on the latest National Fraud Initiative Exercise. A total of Seventy Four (74) relevant data matches have been identified and will be investigated by the Counter Fraud Team.