

FRAUD, CORRUPTION AND FINANCIAL IRREGULARITIES – RESULTS OF CASES CLOSED for 2022/23

Offence/irregularity, sanctions and redress	Key outstanding actions
<p><u>Housing Tenancy</u></p> <p>1. Clarion Housing have had a major cyber security incident and lost access to all of their systems and documents for some months. They are slowly starting to regain access and meetings have been held with them regarding the Fraud work. Clarion have advised that this has not been their priority, essentially since the Pandemic began, but are now assigning some time to deal with the outstanding Fraud cases. Officers from SWLFP have arranged to visit Clarion at their Merton base and go through all the outstanding cases in order to progress some action.</p> <p><u>Housing Waiting List</u></p> <p>2. 492 housing applications have been identified from NFI for removal from the waiting list. Merton advised of a staffing issue, therefore, in line with the next NFI data run in September, it was agreed that Merton work on 81 of the cases identified for deceased tenants. These applications have now been removed.</p>	<p>None</p> <p>None</p>

Offence/irregularity, sanctions and redress	Key outstanding actions
<p><u>Corporate Internal</u></p> <p>1. (8434) False Claims to Obtain Employment: Allegation that individual had provided falsified qualifications and references in order to gain employment within LBM. Investigations revealed that the previous job titles and experience had been exaggerated and it was not possible to verify the references. Disciplinary meeting held and contract terminated.</p> <p>2. (8438) Theft of Wonde Vouchers: Allegation that a breach of the Wonde system had occurred at Garfield School whereby unused vouchers had been downloaded at the school and cashed at Sainsbury's. Member of staff Interviewed Under Caution and a report was issued. Disciplinary action began and staff member resigned before the hearing.</p>	<p>None</p> <p>None</p>
<p><u>Permit Fraud</u></p> <p>3. (8190) Blue Badge Misuse: Blue Badge found being used regularly near Merton Council Offices, was identified as having been lost/stolen. Vehicle found to be linked to an agency worker who left the organisation before further investigation could be undertaken and insufficient evidence of who had been misusing the badge to pursue further action. Badge recovered and case closed.</p> <p>4. (8928) Blue Badge Misuse: Previous investigation into the misuse of a child's Blue Badge being used by an individual. The person was identified as a parent of the child and interviewed under caution. The parent denied the misuse of the badge however, checks confirmed that the child was at school at the time the badge was being misused. Case taken to court where individual pleaded guilty to the 5 charges. The Court imposed costs & fine totalling £828.00. Case closed – successful prosecution.</p> <p>5. (9052) Blue Badge Misuse: Previous investigation into a copy of a Blue Badge being used by an individual who was subsequently prosecuted. The vehicle had subsequently been seen again and enquiries were conducted into who was driving the vehicle and displaying the Blue Badge. Case closed NFA.</p>	<p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>None</p>
<p><u>CTR/SPD</u></p> <p>6. (8302) Undeclared Income: Claimant declared income as an employee and failed to declare that he was the Director of 2 companies that had applied for a Covid 19 Grant. Claim re-assessed and a CTR adjustment of £3,395.26 was created as well as a Housing Benefit overpayment of £10,318.29</p>	<p>None</p>

<p>7. (8816) Undeclared income: NFI match indicated that partner was employed which had not been declared. Earning details sent to Benefits as claim was being paid on the basis of DWP Benefits. Re-assessment carried out and CTR adjustment of £4,038.55 created.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>8. (8817) Undeclared Pension: NFI match identified that claimant was in receipt of a pension which had not been declared. Investigation found that private pension had not been declared. CTR adjustment of £578.57 created and incorrect award of £200 covid grant.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>9. (8834) Undeclared Non-Dependant: NFI match identified an undeclared non-dependant residing at the property. Information requested from claimant who confirmed the information and Benefits were asked to re-assess the claim. CTR adjustment of £658.76 created.</p>	<p>None</p>

NFI Match Category/Number	Number of matches closed NFA	Sanction Outcomes (No. & value)
Pensions-(180)	163	1
Payroll-(61)	42	2
Procurement-(27)	11	0
Resident Parking Permit-(10)	8	0
Blue Badge-(547)	264	0
Waiting List-(1346)	22	411
Creditors-(2531)	2241	0
CTR Scheme-(1259)	679	18
HB-(429)	8	3

Glossary

ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
NFI	National Fraud Initiative
RTB	Right to Buy
TNTQ	Tenant's Notice to Quit

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