

# LCFS NEWSLETTER

## Your Counter Fraud Service June 2016

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Please report any concerns or suspicions you may have. You will be helping to protect NHS funds.

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### Reporting Fraud - Your Role

We all know that the majority of people who work in and use the NHS are honest, but a minority will seek to defraud it. It's important that we are all aware of the types of fraud that are committed and are not afraid to report fraudulent behaviour.

Whether you are an NHS employee, contractor, supplier of goods and services or a member of the public, your input is crucial to help us tackle fraud and corruption in the health service. Anyone can report concerns about fraud in the NHS.

The role of the LCFS is to raise awareness of fraud and to prevent, detect and investigate fraud within the CCG.

Further to that, it is important that staff in the NHS do not have their jobs made more difficult by a dishonest minority who, by taking away resources, put a greater strain on staff.

During the recent staff fraud survey a high percentage of staff stated that they would contact their Line Manager in the first instance if they had a concern or suspicion of fraud.

Whereas we encourage staff to discuss concerns with their Line Manager we strongly advise that they should contact the CCG CFO or Local Counter Fraud Specialist.

**Help protect your  
NHS from fraud**

**STOP NHS FRAUD - REPORT NHS FRAUD**



Alternatively you can report your concerns to the NHS Protect Confidential Reporting Line:



## **Birmingham NHS worker jailed for £287K qualification fraud (NHS Protect)**

A man who lied about crucial medical qualifications to work as a cardiac physiologist has been jailed, after an investigation supported by NHS Protect.

Mitchell Morris, 36, of Eastleigh Grove, Yardley, Birmingham, pleaded guilty to two counts of Fraud by False Representation at Birmingham Crown Court (24 May 2016). He was sentenced to three years' imprisonment for each charge - to run concurrently - and must serve at least 18 months in jail before being considered for release on license. The judge, HH Judge Carr, remarked that Morris had betrayed the trust of his colleagues and employers.

He was employed as a Senior Cardiac Physiologist at the Heart of England Foundation Trust in Birmingham from 2008, and was promoted in 2011 to Deputy Head of the Cardiac Physiology Department. Both roles required a Higher National Diploma (HND) and membership of the Registration Council for Clinical Physiologists - Morris fulfilled neither of these crucial requirements. These matters came to light after an anonymous letter was received by the Trust, and a fraud investigation was quickly launched.

Morris claimed that he had been tricked by a lecturer at a Further Education College, a 'Mr Richards', who had offered to supervise him on a long-distance HND course. But the certificates he had provided to the Trust as proof of his qualifications were false, as was his explanation that they were duplicates issued to him by the examining board Edexcel. However, in a statement, Edexcel asserted that as Morris had no qualifications, he would not have been issued with any certificates at all.

Reg Madden-Waite, Area Anti-Fraud Specialist, NHS Protect said: 'Mitchell Morris lied in order to deceive his employers and obtain a salary to which he was not entitled to. The seriousness of his offence is reflected in the sentence handed down today, which should send out a message to those intending to defraud the NHS. All suspicions of fraud reported to NHS Protect will be followed up, and investigated wherever appropriate. The NHS is not a soft touch and those intending to steal from it will be caught'.



## **NHS computer specialist sentenced for £5,000 eBay fraud (NHS Protect)**

An IT specialist who stole equipment from a hospital and then sold it on eBay has been sentenced after an investigation by police and NHS fraud specialists.

Scott Gill, 39, of Manor Grove, Worksop, Nottinghamshire, pleaded guilty to an offence under the Theft Act (1968) at Doncaster Magistrates Court, South Yorkshire (1 April 2016) and must serve a 250 hour community order. He must also pay compensation of £5,000 to Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

He was employed as an IT specialist by the Trust from September 2005. An anonymous tip off was received via NHS Protect's Fraud & Corruption Reporting Line which alleged that Gill had obtained computer equipment from the Trust and was selling it on eBay. Further investigations revealed that the goods sold on eBay matched the serial numbers of computer equipment used by the Trust, some of which were reported stolen by Gill during an alleged burglary.

Mark Bishop, Counter Fraud Specialist at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, said: 'Scott Gill stole NHS property and then sold it on eBay for his own personal gain. Hospital equipment is precious and should not have been abused in this way. This conviction will hopefully act as a deterrent to others who might consider stealing from the National Health Service'.

Kevin Cane, Area Anti-Fraud Manager, NHS Protect, said: 'NHS Protect fully supports the actions of the Trust in this case. Criminals should not assume that the theft of items like this will go undetected'.



## Fake loan scams

It can be very hard to spot a fake loan site. We all know the names of the big banks, but most of us probably don't know the names of even some of the biggest online lenders. Many are mostly found through Google searches and taken at face value. That level of trust, plus the fact that many people looking for loans need to borrow quickly and feel that they have very few options, has made this market an easy mark for fraudsters.

So the best advice is simply this: **be very wary**.

Here are four things anyone looking to take out or find a loan online should be wary of.

1. Never trust an offer solely based on calls, texts or emails.
2. Ask: 'is this too good to be true?'
3. Check for an Interim Permission and other signs of real world presence.
4. Be wary of paying up front.

Also look out for emails which may have logos and a catching title such as 'Get a short term loan of up to £1500!', which gets the attention of receivers, especially those in need of fast cash. Also check the URL or email address for typing errors and miss-spelt words. These emails can appear to look like ones sent from well-known loan companies!

## Your Counter Fraud Contacts



Brendan Harper LCFS

Tel: 07917 790112

[brendan.harper@mazars.co.uk](mailto:brendan.harper@mazars.co.uk) or

[brendan.harper@nhs.net](mailto:brendan.harper@nhs.net)

Katie Miles LCFS

Tel: 07881283928

[Katie.miles@mazars.co.uk](mailto:Katie.miles@mazars.co.uk)

[Katie.miles2@nhs.net](mailto:Katie.miles2@nhs.net)

**Report NHS fraud**  
**0800 028 40 60**  
**NHS Protect**