

# Local Counter Fraud Services —Newsletter

## HEALTHCARE WORKER SENTENCED TO 14 MONTHS IN JAIL

A Healthcare worker was sentenced on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2007 to 14 months imprisonment for a fraud which cost the taxpayer in excess of £97,000. The Healthcare worker when applying for a position with Kensington and Chelsea Primary Care Trust provided a false identity and false passport. Following investigations carried out by the LCFS, it was identified that the health care worker had used a stolen passport which had then been altered as her means of identity. The Passport

office confirmed that the passport had been stolen in 2001. The healthcare worker was arrested in January 2007 where the police identified her as a Nigerian illegal immigrant. The subject was sentenced to 12 months for using a false instrument (the passport) and 14 months for obtaining a pecuniary advantage (her employment), the judge also stated that she should be deported on completion of her sentence.



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**Special points of interest:**

- Healthcare Worker Sentenced
- Sussex NHS Mgr Sentenced
- GP Escapes Jail on NHS Fraud
- Hospital Security in Car Park Theft

## MANSFIELD LAB TECHNICIAN SENTENCED FOR NHS FRAUD

An NHS laboratory technician who used his Trust's mailing system to deliver a large number of items he had sold on the internet was sentenced on the 28th February 2007 to a conditional discharge, compensation and costs. The technician, who worked at the Sherwood Hospitals NHS Trust, not only conducted auctions on the internet auction site eBay, but also sent items to buyers using the hospital's post system – paid for by the Trust.

When a buyer saw the NHS franked packaging and contacted the Fraud Reporting Line, the technician's fraud was investigated. Further enquiries revealed that the technician had been using his NHS email address as a contact on eBay and he had conducted over 900 transactions on the site, a large part believed to have been whilst he was at work. Some items sold were items of laboratory equipment believed to have been stolen from the department in which he worked. A substantial amount of items are believed

to have been posted via the Trusts post room and at the Trusts expense. The technician appeared at Mansfield Magistrates Court at 2.15pm on Wednesday 28th February 2007 when he pleaded guilty to eight specimen counts of obtaining services by deception from the trust. He was sentenced to 12 months Conditional Discharge and ordered to pay compensation and costs.

## SUSSEX NHS MANAGER SENTENCED FOR CREDIT CARD FRAUD

A NHS manager from Sussex was sentenced to a suspended prison sentence for using a trust purchasing credit card for personal use. The manager, who was responsible for buying items for the East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust, misused the card to purchase £1,000 worth of IT equipment and other personal goods. The fraud was discovered when an item the manager had ordered was sent to the hospital stores department

rather than her home address by mistake. An internal investigation raised a number of discrepancies. In many cases, requisition paperwork could not be found for items that had been ordered and appeared on the card statements. The manager was charged with four counts of false accounting and found guilty in December 2006. The manager was sentenced to nine months imprisonment for each of the counts, suspended for

18 months on the 28th February 07 at Hove Crown Court.



## GRIMSBY MAN SENTENCED FOR NHS CHARITY FRAUD

The treasurer of a Grimsby sexual health charity was sentenced on 12th January 07 to two years imprisonment for defrauding the NHS of up to £140,000.

The 31 year old was treasurer of the charity Sexual Health Awareness, Promotion and Education (SHAPE) until his arrest in Sept 04. The charity was funded by two PCT's in Lincolnshire to provide advice on safe sex to people in the Grimsby area. However, the manager obtained a debit card for the charity, which he then used to fund an extravagant lifestyle including pur-

chasing a Mercedes-Benz car, which has been seized and will be auctioned in lieu of compensation.

Staff at the charity became suspicious and consequently the manager was arrested by Humberside Police. The NHS Counter Fraud Service took over the investigation and subsequently discovered that the debit card was obtained without the knowledge of SHAPE's trustees. The card was used to defraud £140,000 of the charity's money—most of which had been provided by the

NHS.

The manager pleaded guilty to eight charges of theft and obtaining property by deception, with further 735 counts taken into consideration, at Grimsby Magistrates Court on 13th December 06. Following his arrest, the charity went into liquidation due to financial problems with the loss of five jobs.



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## GP ESCAPES JAIL ON NHS FRAUD RAP

A GP who lied about his wife working at his practice to defraud money from the Birmingham East & North PCT received a nine months jail sentence, which was suspended for 12 months at Birmingham Crown Court.

The GP falsely claimed his wife worked at the surgery as a practice manager. The fraud meant he si-

phoned-off £46,637 of NHS and taxpayers' money he was never entitled to. Suspicions arose following comments by a member of staff at the PCT. The concerns were referred to the NHS Counter Fraud Service in the West Midlands, and in May 05, in a joint operation with West Midlands, he was arrested. Following a lengthy investi-

gation, he pleaded guilty to money transfers by deception at Birmingham Crown Court on 11th December 2006.



## HOSPITAL SECURITY IN CAR PARK THEFT

Security guards at the Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust were sentenced to community service for stealing cash from the hospital's car park revenue.

Surveillance by the NHS Counter Fraud Service caught three security guards pocketing fees from motorists leaving the hospital car park. By over-riding the payment on exit and pretending there was a fault, they were able to collect the £1.50 fees themselves.

Following an anonymous tip-off, the NHS Counter Fraud Service in the North West conducted surveillance in August 05. The three defendants were summonsed to appear at Liverpool Crown Court on 5th April 06 and pleaded guilty on 5th October 06, to conspiring to defraud the Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust between 1st June and 26th Aug 06. The three were sacked by the security company contracted to the Trust. Two

were sentenced to 120 hours community service, whilst the third was sentenced to 100 hours. All three were ordered to pay £200 each in prosecution costs.



**TO REPORT A SUSPICION OF FRAUD,  
CALL YOUR LCFS AT  
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