Recent Fraud Cases

MIAA Anti-Fraud Update June 2026

Former HR manager ordered to repay almost £7k after lying about mother's death to defraud the NHS

A former NHS senior HR manager has been ordered to repay £6,948.25 after falsely claiming her mother had died to take compassionate leave while working elsewhere.

Leanne Underhill, 46, pleaded guilty to fraud by false representation and was sentenced at Poole Magistrates' Court on 16 February 2026. She must repay the full salary overpayment and investigation costs in monthly instalments.

Pete Papworth, Chief Finance Officer at University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust, said: "The NHS is under huge financial pressure, and our Trust works to investigate any suspected fraud.

"We are pleased that this case of false representation has been resolved with money being paid back to us, as this will go towards supporting patient care."

Former referral unit advisor sentenced after pleading guilty to NHS fraud

A former NHS referral unit advisor has been given a 12-month community order and ordered to repay £4,026.58 after pleading guilty to defrauding the NHS. Donna Newman, 66, was sentenced at Folkestone Magistrates' Court on 23 March 2026 and must complete 40 hours of unpaid work. While employed by Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust, she falsely claimed 228 hours of NHS bank work between May 2023 and February 2024 to receive higher pay.

The investigating officer, said: "This case demonstrates that timesheet fraud – no matter the amount – will not be tolerated within the NHS.

LCFS case: Fraud by false representation

An NHS trainee psychologist was convicted of fraud by false representation in October 2025 after submitting false mileage expense claims. The court handed down a 26-week prison sentence, suspended for 12 months, alongside 250 hours of unpaid work and ordered repayment of £12,605.94 to the NHS.

The investigation found the individual had claimed mileage for journeys that were never undertaken, forged authorising signatures and attempted to bypass approval by misspelling a senior manager's email address. The court highlighted the abuse of trust involved and awarded compensation covering both the fraudulent claims and the cost of the investigation.

The case reinforced the importance of strong counter-fraud arrangements and led to improved processes for submitting and authorising travel claims, helping reduce the risk of future fraud.

NHSCFA investigation leads to suspended sentences for locum paramedic and recruitment consultant in £60k fraud

A former NHS locum paramedic and his recruitment consultant have received suspended prison sentences after defrauding the NHS of more than £60,000, following an investigation by the NHS Counter Fraud Authority (NHSCFA).

Karl Lavender, 43, a locum paramedic, and Adam Kilgallon, 39, a recruitment consultant who managed his placements, were sentenced at Wolverhampton Crown Court in

February 2026. Both pleaded guilty to fraud by false representation and received 22-month prison sentences, suspended for two years, alongside rehabilitation requirements and unpaid work.

Between September 2022 and June 2024, Lavender submitted altered and inflated timesheets while contracted to Dudley Integrated Health and Care NHS Trust. He claimed payment for shifts not worked and continued submitting falsified timesheets even after his contract ended. Investigators found that Kilgallon directed Lavender to amend timesheets and add extra shifts. The total value of the fraud was £63,835.

The case was referred by the Trust and investigated by NHSCFA, which examined banking records, telecommunications data and witness testimony. Financial investigators are now using Proceeds of Crime Act powers to recover outstanding funds.

NHSCFA said the case highlights the need for robust timesheet verification and reaffirmed its commitment to protecting NHS resources from fraud.

Finance manager jailed for defrauding Bracknell GP surgery of more than £450k

Lauren Millington, 43, from Hook, was sentenced to three years and two months in prison after altering company bank details and redirecting £456,666 from The Waterfield Practice in Bracknell into accounts she controlled.

Roger Happe, 44, received a suspended nine-month sentence and community service for handling some of the stolen money.

Detective Constable Jagdip Sekhon, of the Berkshire Volume Fraud Team, described the offending as “calculated and sustained,” involving fake invoices and the manipulation of company systems.

Detective Inspector Duncan Wynn, head of the Central Fraud Unit, said Millington “systematically abused” her position, leaving a “hole in much needed public finances.” He added the practice had been left with a significant shortfall in funds intended to support the local community.

Mandate fraud – fraudster sentenced to 12 months in prison, suspended for two years for £35k fraud

In December 2022, Wirral Churches Ark Project issued a genuine invoice to an ICB, but a fraudster intercepted communications and posed as the charity’s Head of Finance, requesting payment to a new bank account. Despite attempts by the ICB and NHS Shared Business Services to verify the change, no independent confirmation was received and the payment was ultimately made.

The fraud was discovered when the charity later chased the unpaid invoice. Police identified the offender as Arpad Balazs, who pleaded guilty and received a suspended prison sentence. More than £14,000 has since been recovered, with the remainder still outstanding.

Former NHS healthcare assistant ordered to repay £6k after admitting fraud

Abigail Somerville, 24, was sentenced at Newcastle upon Tyne Magistrates Court on 14 November 2025, having pleaded guilty the previous month to two counts of fraud by false representation. She received a 12-month community order, was ordered to complete 15 rehabilitation days and pay £279 in costs.

Over a four-month period in late 2023, Somerville took sick leave from Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, supported by four GP fit notes. During the same period, she worked 20 shifts as a bank nursing assistant for Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and was scheduled for a further 44 shifts.

The Trust launched an internal investigation into her fitness to work in December 2023, after which Somerville resigned.

The Trust said the fraud was identified quickly, allowing losses to be limited and action taken, and stressed that the case does not reflect the conduct of the vast majority of NHS staff.

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