

Details of Irregularity Investigations Concluded between November 2011 and March 2012

Ref	Directorate	Allegation	Outcome	Recommendations
826	BSS	The National Fraud Initiative identified that a scheme member's pension had incorrectly continued after the death of the scheme member and the monies had been withdrawn from the account. The total overpayment was £3359.56. The next of kin was identified by the Pensions Team however they refused to cooperate and stated they were unable to repay the money.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unable to progress this matter further because the bank refused to cooperate and provide details of the account withdrawals. • Due to a lack of legal power we are unable to compel the banks to cooperate. 	We have recommended that the Pension Team seek legal advice regarding civil recovery options. We will continue to work with Pensions to pursue allegations via other agencies.
831	BSS	The National Fraud Initiative identified that a scheme member's pension had incorrectly continued after the death of the scheme member and the monies had been withdrawn from the account. The total overpayment was £3399.01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unable to progress this matter further because the bank refused to cooperate and provide details of the account withdrawals. • Due to a lack of legal power we are unable to compel the banks to cooperate. 	We have recommended that the Pension Team seek legal advice regarding civil recovery options. We will continue to work with Pensions to pursue these allegations via other agencies.
825	BSS	A member of staff was alleged to have continued with her self employment while absent from work due to illness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigation substantiated some supporting evidence of a breach of KCC policy. • Member of staff was interviewed. • Subsequently the member of staff resigned prior to any further action. 	We are working with Human Resources to review the Managing Attendance policy.
827	C&C	A member of library staff was alleged to be securing business for his own IT company while acting in an official capacity as a library assistant. Furthermore, it was alleged he was continuing with his self employment while absent from work due to illness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only very limited evidence was discovered. • Referred to management to consider informal management action, which they agreed and have completed. 	We are working with Human Resources to review the Managing Attendance policy.

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830	C&C	Allegations were received from Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) that a Blue Badge user had produced copies of his badge and distributed them to members of his family for their own use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigation substantiated that on the balance of probabilities a copy of a badge issued to the user had been displayed in a vehicle owned by a family member. A Penalty Charge Notice was issued by MBC. A warning letter was issued by KCC to the Blue Badge user. 	The counter fraud team will be reviewing the application process for Blue Badges and will be exploring multi-agency enforcement exercises to support district councils in minimising Blue Badge scheme abuse.
832	FSC	Information received that a Direct Payment client was not as severely incapacitated as he had claimed. The client was injured as a result of a Road Traffic Accident involving an uninsured driver in 2005. Subsequent action by the Motor Insurance Bureau in the High Court had proven that the injuries sustained and the degree of ongoing incapacitation had been exaggerated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of actual level of physical ability was provided by the Motor Insurance Bureau. Client's care package was reviewed and a reduced care package was awarded. The new care package is a substantial reduction in payments from £15,765 to £5,921 per annum, a saving of £9,844.p.a. Both criminal sanctions and civil recovery of any losses were considered but due to the burden of proof and the client's financial situation neither appeared viable. 	The counter fraud team will be reviewing the application and assessment processes for personal budgets in 2012/13 and we will consider what (if any) changes could be made to reduce the risk of fraud in the future.
815	BSS	Allegations that a member of staff had exaggerated their expense claims and record of hours worked.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigation identified some supporting evidence. Member of staff was interviewed. Disciplinary hearing held and a final written warning was issued with a requirement to repay the money. 	In response to this and other similar investigations we reviewed the expenses procedures and have made recommendations to support the investigation of similar incidents.
818	FSC	A Community Support Worker was alleged to have been regularly absent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited evidence of incorrect mileage claims. 	In response to this and other similar investigations we reviewed the

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		from duty without authority and was submitting false claims for expenses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor time keeping and inaccurate work records were identified Member of staff interviewed. Disciplinary hearing held and a 2nd level warning letter issued. 	expenses procedures and have made recommendations to support the investigation of similar incidents.
821	ELS	Allegations were received indicating that a Head Teacher had been using the school's purchase card and other school funds for personal items. The individual was also alleged to have paid a member of their family for voluntary services and submitted false claims for expenses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigation identified some evidence to support the allegation. Referred to the police who were unable to progress the case. At this stage of the investigation the employee had left KCC employment. In accordance with KCC policy, the individual was informed of the allegations and invited to attend a number of meetings to discuss the allegations, which they failed to attend. Without police input the options to pursue these allegations was limited. We recommended that KCC inform the appropriate professional body. 	Internal Audit is working with the Schools Financial Service to improve financial standards in schools and to address areas susceptible to fraud which will include closer monitoring of purchase cards, order and receipting procedures and asset registers.
836	FSC	Internal Audit was alerted to a small purchase card expenditure that had no corresponding order or receipt and we were asked to investigate the circumstances.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prior to the conclusion of the investigation the reason for the purchase was identified and validated. No evidence of fraud. Briefly reviewed the controls in place which were adequate but unfortunately not followed in this isolated instance. 	The controls appeared adequate and we were unable to recommend any further changes to minimise the risk of similar incidents.
833	FSC	£400 was reported missing from an imprest fund and the counter fraud team were requested to investigate the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigation was unable to substantiate the identity of the perpetrator. 	Prior to the conclusion of the investigation the local procedures had been changed and the counter fraud

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		circumstances.		team were satisfied that all reasonable steps had been taken to minimise future risks.
824	C&C	A member of staff was alleged to have used the KCC postal service (external) to post items sold privately via an auction website.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The preliminary investigation confirmed one incident. • Evidence was referred to the management to pursue a disciplinary. • Disciplinary hearing was held and the member of staff was dismissed for gross misconduct (with notice). 	No recommendations were required.