

EXAMPLE CASES

Case 1

A 44 year old woman accepted a caution after admitting offences of failing to declare that she had been working as a driver between October 2012 and June 2014.

The offences were indicated through a HBMS data-match and investigation confirmed the period of work and identified a Housing Benefit overpayment of £4,235.35.

Although the period and amount of offending suggests that prosecution should usually be the first sanction option in this case, it was decided that a caution should be offered as an alternative in this case.

Repayment of the debt is currently suspended as the customer is currently subject to a Debt Relief Order. The customer however is fully aware that the overpayment cannot be included in the order as the debt is a result of fraud so will be required to repay this at the earliest opportunity.

Case 2

A 69 year old man was sentenced to a 12 month day time curfew, 8 a.m. to midnight, 7 days a week, for fraudulently claiming benefits totalling over £68,000 by claiming to be single and sharing a home with his sister, whereas she was actually his wife.

This fraud came to light when a member of the public telephoned the Benefit Fraud Team to report a residency issue and it was realised that the couple were being referred to as husband and wife, not brother and sister.

The investigation took a considerable length of time due to complications and the lack of co-operation from the customer but resulted in overpayments of £2,740.57 Housing Benefit and ££856.06 Council Tax Benefit for the period from September 2009, when the couple moved to Redditch until May 2011 when the claim was stopped.

The DWP were invited to join the investigation and offences were identified on their benefits dating continuously from 1996 until 2011 with overpayments totalling £65,039.34.

Recovery of the Housing Benefit overpayment is currently being pursued.

Case 3

The investigation into the claim of a 32 year old man was closed without sanction after the case was rejected for prosecution by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

This investigation began as a result of anonymous information in June 2013 alleging that the customer had been carrying out undeclared work. Initial checks established

that the claim had been closed in June 2013 after the customer advised that he had become self-employed.

Further investigation established that the customer had been working for an employer in March 2013 and identified 2 further undeclared employers between August 2011 and September 2012.

Overpayments of £3,495.90 Housing Benefit and £399.97 Council Tax Benefit were identified.

The DWP were invited to join the investigation. They identified overpayments of £6,442.94 Jobseeker's Allowance, £1,252.70 Employment and Support Allowance and £7,102.90 Disability Living Allowance then went on to conduct the interview under caution and lead the prosecution.

Unfortunately the CPS requested further information from the lead investigator but rejected the case as this wasn't provided within a reasonable timescale due to extended sickness absence.

The Housing Benefit overpayment is being recovered by weekly instalment.