

**Example cases****Case 1**

A 64 year old man was prosecuted for offences of failure to declare the full amount of his capital and only declaring 2 of his 3 occupational pensions.

This investigation began as a result of a HBMS data-match referral indicating the undeclared capital. Further enquiries confirmed this and went on to identify the undeclared pension.

Overpayments of £4,078.96 Housing Benefit and £1,034.29 Council Tax Support were established, all being repaid in full prior to the prosecution.

The customer was sentenced to a 4 week curfew between the hours of 9 p.m. and 7 a.m. He was also ordered to pay a £60 victim surcharge and £85 costs.

**Case 2**

A 37 year old woman accepted a caution after admitting offences relating to failing to declare an increase in her earnings.

This investigation was started after overpayments of £951.54 Housing Benefit and £204.69 Council Tax Support were calculated following receipt of RTI information.

A caution was considered appropriate in this case due to the amount of overpaid benefit and period of offending.

During the interview under caution it came to light that the customer needed further support with regard to her financial situation and problems she was having with her employment. Arrangements were put in place by the Investigation Officer for the appropriate help to be given.

The customer has now left the area and recovery of the overpayment is in pursuit.

**Case 3**

The investigation into the claim of a 70 year old woman who had failed to declare an occupational pension was closed without sanction.

This investigation also began as a result of HBMS data-match suggesting that the customer was receiving a small pension from a previous employer. Because the claim had only been put into payment on 20 January and the data-match was received on 3 February the customer was contacted by telephone as these referrals are not always reliable because often small pensions have been paid out in a lump sum years before any benefit claim was made.

Unfortunately the customer was in hospital receiving treatment for a serious illness when the telephone call was made but she was able to confirm that she was receiving a pension that she had failed to declare when making her claim.

An overpayment of Housing Benefit amounting to £76.47 was calculated and has been recovered from on-going entitlement. A letter was issued to the customer reminding of her responsibility to correctly declare circumstances in future and any changes as they take place.