

**AUDIT
BOARD**

21st June 2012

APPENDIX 2

Example cases.

360031112

An investigation into a 52 year old woman claiming to be a lone parent resulted in community orders for both herself and her partner.

The referral on this case was made by the Benefit Team as an Officer held suspicions over arrangements for the collection of rent payments that were said to be in place. The DWP were invited to join the investigation as Income Support was also in payment.

Evidence was found to establish that the customer's undeclared partner was the owner of the property that she was claiming Housing Benefit from whilst living there as a family.

Overpayments of £39,385.50 Housing Benefit, £5,266.39 Council Tax Benefit and £18,459.20 Income Support were identified.

The overpayments were repaid in full by the partner (using a recent inheritance) prior to sentencing and this was taken into consideration by the Court. The customer was ordered to carry out 165 hours unpaid work and her partner was ordered to complete a benefit fraud workbook and received counselling during their 18 month community orders. They were each also ordered to pay £400 towards the prosecution costs.

The prosecution was taken by DWP Solicitors as is generally the case in joint investigations.

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**AUDIT
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360069735

A 53 year old man was ordered to carry out 160 hours unpaid work during a 12 month community order and pay £250 costs for failing to declare an inheritance and his partner's work.

This investigation started as a result of the National Fraud Initiative (NFI) which identified the undeclared work. After initial enquiries found the suspicion to be true, the DWP were invited to join the investigation and again lead the prosecution. The inheritance came to light during the course of the investigation and the combined offences identified overpayments of £2,679.30 Housing Benefit/ Council Tax Benefit and £6,525.29 Jobseeker's Allowance.

360032501

A 66 year old woman accepted an administrative penalty as an alternative to prosecution for failing to declare capital.

This referral was received through the Housing Benefit Matching Service after a match against HMRC data suggested that there may be undeclared capital. Further investigation showed the match to be correct and a Council Tax Benefit overpayment of £2,989.44 was identified.

360036209

A 36 year old man accepted a caution as an alternative to prosecution for failing to declare that he was in receipt of student income.

This investigation also began as a result of the NFI and identified an overpayment totalling £2,623.78.

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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360092200

The DWP invited the Fraud Team to join this investigation as evidence had been obtained which appeared to show undeclared work. The customer, a 26 year old woman, was interviewed under caution and claimed that she had worked for the company for a short period of time but they had continued to pay her wages in error after she left.

No further action was taken in this case as no offence could be proven and the company are likely to seek reimbursement.