

EXAMPLE CASES

Case 1

A 33 year old woman was prosecuted for failing to declare that she had inherited £30,000 from her late mother's property.

This investigation was started by the DWP who invited BDC to join the investigation in order for the full extent of offending to be identified and the prosecution was conducted by the Crown Prosecution Service who prosecute cases on behalf of the DWP.

The investigation resulted in overpayments of £2,038 Housing Benefit, £510 Council Tax Benefit and £3,620 in DWP benefits being identified.

The customer was sentenced to 12 months conditional discharge. The Housing Benefit overpayment is being recovered through deductions from the customer's current entitlement and the Council Tax is being recovered through deductions from DWP benefit.

Case 2

A 30 year old woman accepted a caution as an alternative to prosecution after admitting offences of providing false information about the amount of her earnings when her claim was reviewed and verified in July 2011.

This investigation was started after a further review which began as a result of a data match from HBMS identifying that the amount of wages on the claim had not altered for at least 13 months, found the discrepancy.

Overpayments of £1,177 Housing Benefit and £343 Council Tax Benefit were initially identified but reduced to £614 Housing Benefit and £57 Council Tax Benefit after the possibility of underlying entitlement identified at the interview under caution was confirmed. The Housing Benefit overpayment is being repaid by monthly instalments.

Case 3

An investigation into the claim of a 48 year old man was closed without sanction as there was insufficient evidence available to proceed.

The Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit/Support claim had been in payment based on the customer being in receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) until it was identified through a HBMS match that this had ceased 6 months earlier.

The customer failed to attend an interview under caution and no employment evidence was available to prove income after JSA ceased.

Overpayments of £2,718 Housing Benefit and £546 Council Tax Benefit/Support were identified. Recovery action is ongoing to recover the Housing Benefit overpayment and the amount still owing on the Council Tax account.