

Example cases

Case 1

A 59 year old woman was prosecuted for failing to declare an initial lump sum and then regular payments from a pension provider.

This investigation began as a result of the National Fraud Initiative and the DWP were invited to work jointly in order to ensure that the full extent of offending was identified.

Overpayments of £11,497.83 Housing Benefit, £1,819.78 Council Tax Benefit, £337.09 Council Tax Support and £1,548.73 Employment and Support Allowance were calculated for the period from October 2010 until September 2013.

The customer gave no reason for not reporting the lump sum and pension when she was interviewed under caution and prosecution was authorised after taking the full facts into consideration.

After pleading guilty to the offences the customer was fined £300, ordered to pay £145 towards the prosecution costs and pay a victim surcharge of £30. The overpayment is being repaid in monthly instalments.

Case 2

The investigation into the claim of a 38 year old man which started as a result of a HBMS referral was without consideration of a sanction.

The HBMS referral identified that the Jobseeker's Allowance that the Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support claim was based on had ended and investigations established that the customer had started work as a self-employed fence erector.

Overpayments of £478.38 Housing Benefit and £270.12 Council Tax Support were identified for the period June to September 2014. Action is on-going to recover both debts.

As the customer is self-employed it is not possible to obtain sufficient evidence regarding income to secure a prosecution and therefore the case was closed without sanction.