EXAMPLE CASES

Case 1

A woman from Sidemoor received a caution for failing to declare to both BDC and DWP that her partner was living with her. This was a joint working exercise with DWP fraud investigators.

In her interview, the customer admitted that she didn't report her partner moving in and she received money she was not entitled to.

This resulted causing an overpayment of Housing Benefit of £720, and an overpayment of Income Support of £2000. The caution was authorised as it was a first time offence and customer complied with the investigation in full.

Deductions are being taken from the customer's current benefit entitlement until all of the money is repaid.

Case 2

A woman from Beoley accepted an Administrative Penalty for failing to declare to BDC that she received inheritances totalling £100,000, and did not report this change to the Council. The information was obtained from an anonymous telephone call which alleged she had received a substantial sum of money.

The decision was made to offer the penalty as the customer made no attempt to pay her full council tax, and used the monies on a day to day basis, despite originally claiming in interview it was set aside for her children.

This resulted in an overpayment of Council Tax Support of £1100, and the Administrative Penalty was £550. The overpayment and penalty was repaid in full which was a condition set for the offer of an Administrative Penalty.

Case 3

A 92 year old man from Catshill failed to declare a return to work and a small pension increase, which was identified through an RTI match. After careful consideration it was decided not to pursue the case at a criminal level due to the customer's age, The customer has been reminded of his duty to report changes and the potential for criminal action should he fail to do so in the future.

This resulted in an overpayment of Housing Benefit of £4,314.04 and Council Tax Support of £867. The Housing Benefit overpayment in this case is also being recovered through deductions from ongoing benefit entitlement.