



Recent Fraud Cases

MIAA Anti-Fraud Update

April 2024

Psychiatrist struck off for falsely claiming nearly £30,000 worth of shifts

A consultant doctor has been struck off after he falsely claimed for £29,749.97 worth of shifts when he was out of the country.

An investigation revealed Dr Rajeev Reghunath had forged the signature of a fellow consultant psychiatrist to falsify timesheets for 35 shifts, for which he was paid up to £1,300 a time.

The fraud took place between January 2019 and February 2021 when Reghunath was working as a locum consultant psychiatrist in Greater Manchester Mental Health Foundation NHS Trust, via an agency called Pulse Healthcare Limited.

An investigative report by MIAA anti-fraud specialist, Neil McQueen said: "Concerns were raised about a number of days claimed to have been worked. There were also days claimed over Christmas in 2020 that were not worked as well as days in early January 2021."

There were two instances within the claims made that Reghunath was not in the country as the Home Office data showed that he had flown to Abu Dhabi and Dalaman at times when he had claimed to have been working.

Neil continued: "He submitted five weeks' worth of timesheets from India after he left the country for the final time in February 2021."



At the Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service, Reghunath was found guilty of serious professional misconduct. Chairman Ms Joanne Shelley said:

"Dr Reghunath demonstrated a pattern of behaviour which had escalated over time, from submitting false timesheets for authorisation and payment to ultimately falsifying his lead consultant's signatures on his timesheets to suggest the claims he was making were legitimate and appropriately authorised to claim monies he was not entitled to, thus depriving the NHS of substantial sums of money."

MIAA Senior Anti-Fraud Manager, Paul Bell commented: "Regulatory body sanctions are one of the range of ways that fraudsters can be punished. They may be barred from working in their chosen field, or even banned for life."

If you suspect that anyone is committing fraud or another economic crime against the NHS, contact NHSCFA using their website to report

online: www.cfa.nhs.uk or telephone the 24-hour reporting line **0800 028 40 60**.

Fraudster sentenced at Swansea Crown Court

Former GP Practice Manager Clare Boland has been sentenced to three years at Swansea Crown Court for stealing £324,000 from the practice for her own personal gain.

Boland had been employed at the Fairfield GP Surgery in Port Talbot since 2009. In her role she had sole responsibility for the day-to-day financial operations of the practice including payroll, paying locums and suppliers.

At the time of her suspension in 2022 her salary was approximately £45,000 per annum. The fraud was discovered when some financial documents were found in the surgery which showed that a recent payment had been made to a locum doctor who had not worked at the surgery for a number of years.

One of the senior partners at the practice referred the matter to South Wales Police in March 2022 who passed it to NHS Counter Fraud Wales for investigation. As part of the investigation, an NHS CFS Wales Financial Investigator conducted

analysis of Boland's bank account and determined that the stolen money had been transferred into her bank account and spent.

Sentencing Boland to three years in prison, Judge Catherine Richards said,

"The impact of this sort of fraud is varied - emotional, practical and financial."

Clare Boland pleaded guilty to one offence of Fraud by Abuse of Position in December.

Cheryl Hill, Deputy Operational Fraud Manager, at NHS CFS Wales said:

"The impact of Boland's fraudulent actions are far reaching and have had significant impact on her former employer. Boland abused her position and the trust of her employers and

colleagues for her own personal greed.

"NHS CFS Wales will now use their powers under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 to recover the money Boland stole and return it to the victims."

Dental manager who stole nearly £300,000 jailed

A dental manager, Lisa Marie Jones, 55, has been sentenced to six years and nine months in prison for embezzling £282,958 from her workplace, Mansion House Dental Practice.

She blamed her colleagues for issues like drugs, debts, and family problems.

Jones, who was in charge of the Practice's payroll and finances, earned £1,200 monthly, yet paid herself up to £8,000 monthly, spending the excess on luxury goods.

She initially denied wrongdoing but later admitted to fraud and false accounting. The court heard she manipulated payroll records, increasing her pay and hours worked.

She was caught in 2016 when discrepancies were noticed by the new owner, Chris Fair. Her actions caused financial harm to her employers and resulted in false accusations against innocent colleagues.

Jones showed no remorse and continued lying throughout the investigation. She was found guilty and sentenced accordingly.

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