

FRAUD, CORRUPTION AND FINANCIAL IRREGULARITIES – RESULTS OF CASES CLOSED 01/04/20 to 31/01/21

Offence/irregularity, sanctions and redress	Key outstanding actions
<p><u>Housing Tenancy</u></p> <p>1. (5243) Subletting: Referral from Clarion alleging that the tenant had left the country while family members reside at the address. Investigation identified that the tenant was found to have been overseas since December 2018. Tenant is now aware of checks being undertaken and made an application to transfer the tenancy into the son's name, which was declined. Notices served and following court action, vacant possession of property secured.</p>	None
<p>2. (5690) Subletting - NFI match provided confirmation that a joint tenant had passed away. Investigation commenced which identified a subtenant at the property who provided a witness statement along with rent payment proof. The surviving tenant was served with notices and the property was recovered. Due to the level of rental income an Unlawful Profit Order requested and obtained with an award of £26,423.41.</p>	None
<p>3. (5761) False succession claim: Referral from Clarion that they suspected an application from the deceased tenant's son to succeed the property to be false. Investigation identified that the applicant had only returned to the UK 2 months prior to the tenant passing away, so did not meet the eligibility criteria for succession. Succession was denied and notices served. Following further legal action possession awarded and property recovered.</p>	None
<p>4. (6623) False Housing Application – Referral from L&Q as part of a wider investigation into false tenancy allocations. Investigation highlighted that normal succession procedures had been circumvented with the use of forged documents. It was established that the current occupants were unauthorised and further checks were conducted in order to prove that the individuals had no connection, in order to be able to claim tenancy succession, to the property prior to being given a tenancy. When challenged the unauthorised occupants then moved and vacant possession of the property was obtained.</p>	None

Offence/irregularity, sanctions and redress	Key outstanding actions
<p><u>Corporate Internal</u></p> <p>5. (6418) Secondary employment: Referral from Human Resources, officer suspected of working for another business whilst reporting to Merton as being unfit to work. Investigation confirmed that officer was registered with an agency and had been working for others whilst claiming to be unfit to work. Officer became aware of the investigation and resigned.</p>	None
<p><u>School Admissions</u></p> <p>6. (6417) False application: Referral from School Admissions Team who suspected that a family had given a false address on an application for a place at a particular school. Investigation confirmed that family did not reside at address used within the school admissions application, so application was refused.</p> <p>7. (7041) False application: Referral from School Admissions Team who suspected that a family had given a former address on an application for a place at a particular school. Investigation confirmed that family did not reside at address used and were now living within another borough, so application was refused.</p>	None

Glossary

NFI National Fraud Initiative