



Recent Fraud Cases

MIAA Anti-Fraud Update

July 2025

Former Dudley NHS senior manager admits to defrauding over £120,000 from Trust

A former NHS manager has admitted to defrauding over £120,000 from the Dudley Integrated Health and Care NHS Trust.

Alec Gandy, 42, pleaded guilty at Wolverhampton Crown Court to one count of fraud by abuse of position. While working as a Senior Operational Manager, he dishonestly gained £123,090 between April 2021 and December 2023.

Gandy was entrusted with protecting the Trust's financial interests but instead used his position for personal profit. He will be sentenced later this month.

The Trust was dissolved in October 2024, with its responsibilities transferred to the Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

Court orders fake psychiatrist to pay back more than £400,000 of defrauded NHS money

Fake psychiatrist Zholia Alemi, currently serving a seven-year prison sentence for fraud, has been ordered to repay £406,624 to the NHS or face an additional 2.5 years behind bars.

The order, issued on 4 June 2025 by Manchester Crown Court, covers all her known assets, with a three-month deadline to repay.

Alemi worked as a psychiatrist in the NHS for 22 years after forging her medical qualifications, including a fake degree from the University of Auckland. In 2023, she was convicted of 20 offences, including fraud and forgery, having fraudulently obtained over £1 million from NHS Trusts.

The NHS Counter Fraud Authority (NHSCFA) secured the confiscation order under the Proceeds of Crime Act, identifying multiple properties and bank accounts linked to Alemi.

Ben Harrison, Head of Operations at NHSCFA, said the ruling highlights their commitment to recovering stolen NHS funds and punishing fraudsters. Cumbria Police played a key role in uncovering Alemi's deception, which was initially exposed by a journalist in 2016.

Former NHS team leader sentenced at Aberystwyth Magistrates Court for theft

Former NHS senior nurse Faith Chareka, 44, has been sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment, suspended for 18 months, and ordered to complete 200 hours of unpaid work

after defrauding nearly £20,000 from the NHS.

Chareka, of Banbury, appeared at Reading Crown Court on 16 April 2025, having pleaded guilty to fraud by false representation. She abused her role as a Senior Sister at Wexham Park Hospital's Emergency Department by falsely adding shifts to the Trust's HealthRoster system between December 2020 and April 2023.

An internal investigation by Frimley Heath NHS Foundation Trust revealed she claimed £19,575.41 for shifts she did not work. Her senior position gave her administrative access to modify shift records, which she exploited for personal gain.

Chareka admitted the fraud during a voluntary interview in May 2023. She must also complete 15 rehabilitation days.

NHS Counter Fraud Authority investigators are now working to recover the stolen funds under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

Officials condemned her actions, noting the strain placed on colleagues who unknowingly covered her fake shifts. The Trust reaffirmed its commitment to tackling NHS fraud and supporting staff who report wrongdoing.

Four men jailed for £6m bribery and corruption against NHS Scotland

On June 5th, four men were jailed for a total of 29 years for fraud, bribery, and corruption involving NHS Scotland. Former NHS staff Alan Hush and Gavin Cox were sentenced to eight and six years, while Oricom directors Adam Sharoudi and Gavin Brown received eight and seven years.

The investigation, led by NHS Scotland Counter Fraud Services (CFS) with support from Police Scotland and the NHS Counter Fraud Authority's Digital Forensic Unit (DFU), began with a probe into stolen mobile phones. It uncovered a wider fraud from 2010 to 2017, where Hush and Cox accepted £100,000 in bribes in exchange for insider information that helped Oricom secure £6 million in contracts.

False, inflated invoices allowed NHS funds to be misused. Over 4,000 pieces of evidence and 250 witnesses supported the case. Officials praised the conviction as a major step in protecting NHS resources and highlighted the crucial role of digital forensics.

Senior NHS nurse sentenced at Oxford Crown Court to 8 months imprisonment

Charlotte Woodward, 35, a former senior nurse at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, has been sentenced to eight months in prison, suspended for 18 months.

She was also ordered to complete 80 hours of unpaid work and attend 10 rehabilitation sessions after defrauding the NHS of £21,562.

Between November 2021 and March 2022, Woodward used her matron login to create and approve 57 fake shifts she never worked. The fraud was uncovered by TIAA Local Counter Fraud Specialists. During a formal interview, she fully admitted to the offence and was later dismissed.

Woodward pleaded guilty to fraud by false representation under the Fraud Act 2006 at Oxford Magistrates' Court in January 2025 and was sentenced at Oxford Crown Court on April 24th.

NHS Counter Fraud Authority investigators are now pursuing recovery of the stolen funds under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.

Former NHS manager ordered to repay £175,000 or face imprisonment

On 19 June, the NHS Counter Fraud Authority (NHSCFA) secured a confiscation order against former NHS manager Thomas Elrick, requiring him to repay £175,000 or face two years in prison. The order follows his 2023 conviction for defrauding NHS Harrow CCG of £564,484.

Elrick, 58, used a fake company, Tree of Andre Therapy Services, to submit false invoices between 2018 and 2020. The payments were deposited into his personal account, with no services delivered. He later tried to cover his tracks using a fake email in his deceased wife's name.

NHSCFA investigators confirmed

no GP practices received services. Elrick admitted to creating the ghost company, calling fraud an addiction that funded luxury holidays and shopping.

Recovered funds will return to the NHS via the North West London Integrated Care Board. NHSCFA's Ben Harrison said the case shows fraud against the NHS will be actively pursued and punished.

PHB Fraud Conviction Secured

Stephen Kingsford, 44, and his carer Ace Rosales, 34, both of Southampton, were convicted at Southampton Crown Court for defrauding the NHS of over £17,000 through misuse of a Personal Health Budget (PHB). The fraud, which ran from January 2022 to January 2023, involved false invoices and care records.

Rosales received a 15-month suspended sentence, 20 rehabilitation activity hours, 150 hours of community work, and must repay £7,200 over three years. Kingsford received a similar suspended sentence, 20 rehabilitation hours, and must repay £1,800. He was also fined £200 for reoffending while under suspended sentences.

Judge Gary Lucie noted Rosales avoided prison due to his ability to repay funds, while Kingsford's sentence reflected his health issues.

Colin Edwards, NHS Counter Fraud Specialist, emphasized the seriousness of NHS fraud, which costs the service an estimated £1.32 billion annually—funds that could support vital patient care.

NHS fraud
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NHS
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miaa

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