

British Council – Counter Fraud Cases 2018-2019

Date	Location	Allegation	Outcome	Financial Losses (£ gross)
Apr-18	Wider Europe (WE)	Staff member reported there was non-compliance with corporate standards in the recruitment process.	The matter was investigated - no fraud was identified	zero
Apr-18	South Asia (SA)	Staff member submitted medical claims reimbursement outside of policy and created fake records to make further fraudulent claims.	Staff member dismissed and reported to police - significant improvements to controls made	£31,500.00
Apr-18	WE	Case of mandate fraud by way of diverted payment to a consultant.	Reported to police and controls enhanced	£3,679.63
Apr-18	SA	Reported concerns of potential over payments to Partner.	The matter was investigated – controls improved following failures in compliance. Partner struck off.	zero
Apr-18	SA	Allegation that a member of staff has been colluding and price fixing with vendors.	Following investigation no evidence of fraud was identified - improvements to controls made	zero
Apr-18	Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)	Attempted VAT fraud – identified prior to payment being made	Vendor concerned will not be used again. Existing controls prevented loss.	zero
Apr-18	SA	Overstating of hours worked by staff.	Staff concerned (three) dismissed - processes reviewed and improved	zero
Apr-18	SA	Allegation that a staff member is passing information to a downstream partner in exchange for a payment.	No evidence of corruption identified	zero
Apr-18	SSA	Allegation reported by a whistle-blower of a staff member receiving kickbacks from venue.	Following investigation no evidence of fraud identified	zero
Apr-18	East Asia (EA)	Staff member was running an online business and stole information to support this	Individual dismissed and reported to police - significant improvements in controls made.	zero
Apr-18	SA	Allegation of bribery that an individual was offering to improve test scores in exchange for money.	This was an external party and the offer of a bribe was refused	zero
Apr-18	SA	Member of staff was victim of armed robbery of BC property.	Security advice provided - reported to police	£80
Apr-18	SA	Two members of staff victim of robbery of BC property	Security advice provided - reported to police	£3,000

May-18	SA	A vendor we have transacted with was arrested by local CT police.	Reported to National Crime Agency as potential terrorist financing issue	zero
May-18	SA	Staff member is believed to have sublet some of their BC supplied accommodation out to external parties.	Staff member subject of disciplinary - improvements to controls made	zero
May-18	WE	A candidate registered for an exam with a forged passport which was identified prior to the exam date.	Individual was not allowed to take exam, and reported to authorities	zero
May-18	Americas (AME)	An individual forged a letter with BC headed paper and acted as though they worked for BC to defraud a local school in Mexico City.	No involvement of any BC members of staff - reported to relevant authorities	zero
May-18	MENA	Member of staff colluded with a vendor to make payment for goods which were not supplied	Member of staff concerned dismissed, amongst other disciplinary action - reported to police. Controls reviewed & improved. Some funds recovered.	£35,502
May-18	EA	It is alleged that a Teaching Centre branch has manipulated sales targets to receive incentive without proper sign off or approvals.	Following an investigation no evidence of fraud was identified	zero
May-18	SSA	A member of staff has amended various invoice numbers.	Individual disciplined but no evidence of fraud was identified - additional controls implemented	zero
May-18	AME	Alleged conflict of interest in relation to BC and partners it has been working with.	Following investigation no evidence of fraud identified	zero
May-18	EU	A staff member who has since left, committed the BC to partner a cultural event without having the right to do so through any approvals.	Civil matter – appellant withdraw application	zero
May-18	SSA	Allegation that a consultant defrauded the BC through forging documents used to secure employment.	Following investigation no evidence of fraud identified	zero
May-18	SA	Allegation than an ex-member of staff was involved in the procurement of a vendor that potentially overcharged the British Council.	Following investigation no evidence of fraud identified	zero
May-18	SSA	Volunteers claimed for expenses which they were not entitled to.	Volunteers were not used again - money recovered	£172
Jun-18	SSA	Theft of cash from bag by staff.	Money recovered from individual - dismissed and reported to police	zero

Jun-18	SA	Allegation made against a member of staff of a suspicious increase in venue costs.	Following investigation no evidence of fraud was identified - improvements to controls made	zero
Jun-18	SSA	Staff member was victim of theft of cash from bag.	Individual responsible dismissed - additional measures introduced to prevent reoccurrence	zero
Jun-18	EA	Member of public had cash stolen.	Individual dismissed - additional measures introduced to prevent reoccurrence	zero
Jul-18	MENA	Possible breach of exam content prior to exam.	Following investigation no evidence of fraud was identified - improvements to controls made	zero
Jul-18	UK	Contact centre received a call saying a member of the public had received a scam message from someone claiming to be from the BC	Full details were obtained and passed to UK Police	zero
Jul-18	SA	Reported theft of four mobile phones.	Reported to police	£300
Jul-18	SA	Staff member found to have an undeclared relationship with a vendor	individual was dismissed - improvements to controls made	zero
Jul-18	SSA	Allegation of theft of a SIM card	Following investigation this was believed to be an error, not fraud - SIM (unused) was returned	zero
Aug-18	UK	Personal property stolen from a locker.	Reported to Global Estates and Security	zero
Aug-18	MENA	Reconciliation revealed discrepancies in payments.	Following investigation no evidence of fraud was identified - improvements to controls made	£100
Aug-18	SSA	Suspected fraudulent certificates used by an organisation purporting to be BC.	Reported to the Police	zero
Aug-18	AME	Armed robbery of a BC mobile phone.	Security advice provided	£100
Aug-18	SA	An organisation responsible for carrying out pre-employment checks have provided fake certificates	Legal action being taken to recover losses and the contract has been retendered	£15,000
Aug-18	MENA	During a petty cash reconciliation it was revealed that cash was missing.	Following investigation no evidence of fraud was identified - improvements to controls made	£60
Aug-18	EA	Vendors were selected at potentially higher prices than market rate in return for loyalty points.	Individual dismissed - additional measures introduced to prevent reoccurrence	zero

Aug-18	EA	Staff member requesting commission on payments made to contracted workers	Individual dismissed - additional measures introduced to prevent reoccurrence. Losses recovered.	£101
Aug-18	EA	Historical allegations of fraud on programme	Allegations investigated. No further action required.	zero
Sep-18	SSA	Staff member misused courier service for personal use.	Staff member dismissed & money recovered - improvements made to prevent reoccurrence	£12
Sep-18	SA	Report of potential fraud involving staff member.	Allegations investigated. No further action required.	zero
Sep-18	WE	Bribe was offered to staff member in exchange for a pass in an exam	Bribe refused - and individual was reported to employer	zero
Sep-18	SA	Theft of five mobile phones from an IT room by a contracted member of staff.	Phones recovered - individual dismissed. Improvements to controls made.	£500
Sep-18	WE	Fake bank note used to purchase voucher	Controls improved	zero
Oct-18	SSA	Payment for goods received was significantly higher than what was quoted	Individual has left the organisation - improvements to controls made	£885
Oct-18	MENA	Staff member has allegedly provided exam answers to a candidate	Individual dismissed	zero
Oct-18	EU	Ex-staff member failed to refund money owed	Under civil proceedings	£2,070
Oct-18	MENA	Staff have claimed for overtime which they were not entitled to.	Following investigation no evidence of fraud was identified - performance issue, improvements to controls made	zero
Oct-18	EA	Allegation on justice reform programme that a partner has paid bribe to settle a legal case.	Partner has completed investigation - action taken to prevent reoccurrence	zero
Oct-18	SA	A staff member claimed medical insurance for children who were not his dependants.	Staff member dismissed - measures taken to prevent reoccurrence	zero
Oct-18	MENA	Venue staff are suspected of submitting forged and over-written receipts.	Being handled as a management failing not a fraud - disciplinary action being taken, money recovered	£9,222
Oct-18	EU	Burglary of office.	Reported to Police - security advise provided	£5103.40
Oct-18	SA	Laptop reported to be missing from the workstation - not secured to the desk.	Security advice provided.	£800

Nov-18	SA	Theft of British Council laptop as a staff member was travelling home.	Security advice provided	zero
Nov-18	MENA	Staff member has allegedly failed to declare personal spend on their work mobile phone.	Individual dismissed - improvements to controls made, losses recovered	£2,070
Nov-18	MENA	Allegation that overpayments have been made to a specific vendor.	Following investigation no evidence of fraud was identified - improvements to controls made	zero
Nov-18	EU	Equipment stolen during burglary of venue.	Reported to Police - security advice provided	£2,670
Nov-18	EA	Supermarket vouchers stolen	Individual dismissed - additional measures introduced to prevent reoccurrence	£377
Nov-18	UK	Laptop stolen from venue	Reported to Police - security advise provided	£800
Dec-18	EU	Fake banknote received to the value of £20.	Additional controls introduced	£20
Jan-19	SA	Member of staff avoided payment and made unauthorised changes to system	Member of staff dismissed - improvements to controls made	£40
Jan-19	SA	Theft of BC property	New measures to prevent reoccurrence introduced	£16
Jan-19	MENA	Theft of petty cash	No evidence of fraud identified - new measures to prevent reoccurrence introduced	£70
Jan-19	MENA	Fraud involved inappropriate use of refund system	Member of staff dismissed - improvements to controls made	£92
Feb-19	SA	Expenses fraud	Individual dismissed - existing controls prevented any losses	£197
Feb-19	SA	Allegation of fraud involving payments to letting agents	Following investigation no evidence of fraud identified	zero
Feb-19	MENA	Theft of books from storeroom	Improvements to prevent reoccurrence completed	£500
Feb-19	MENA	Allegation that staff member has assisted candidate with test answers	Following investigation two members of staff were dismissed	zero
Feb-19	MENA	Ex-staff member failed to refund money owed	Under civil proceedings	£10,000
Feb-19	SA	Staff member claimed payments for 35 volunteers for an event when only 25 were used	Member of staff dismissed - improvements to controls made	£100

Mar-19	SSA	External party selling fake BC services	limited instances (two) - so office will continue to monitor	zero
Mar-19	SSA	Allegation received that a member of staff had a second full time employer	individual dismissed	zero
Mar-19	MENA	Member of staff accessed a colleague's laptop without authorisation	Following investigation no evidence of fraud was identified - member of staff concerned subject of disciplinary	zero
Feb	SA	Attempted expense fraud - identified before any losses were incurred	Individual dismissed - existing controls identified fraud	zero
Mar-19	SSA	Compliance investigation	Following investigation no evidence of fraud identified - improvements to controls made	zero
Mar-19	SA	Historical allegation of fraud	following review no evidence of fraud identified	zero
Mar-19	SA	Member of staff amended Doctor's note to justify time off	Member of staff dismissed - improvements to controls made. Losses recovered	£111
Mar-19	AME	Staff members inappropriate use of taxi service for personal trips	Staff member dismissed - improvements to controls made. Losses recovered.	£698.00
Mar-19	SA	Staff member allegedly stole an item from a store	Following investigation the decision was made that this was not a BC issue - advise re codes of conduct given	zero
Mar-19	SSA	Laptop stolen from vehicle.	Reported to Police	£1,042
Mar-19	UK	Theft of headphones from a locker	Advice only	£19
Mar-19	EU	BC bank details used for fraudulent payment	Money recovered from bank - reported to police	£25.50