

**British Council – Counter Fraud Cases 2019-2020**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Allegation</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Financial Losses (£ gross)</b>
Apr-19	Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)	Staff member was a victim of robbery - multiple items stolen including a mobile phone.	Reported to Police - security advice provided	£33.00
Apr-19	UK	Mandate fraud attempt at partner	Investigation complete – existing controls prevented the fraud. Reported to Police.	zero
Apr-19	South Asia (SA)	Alleged conflict in the procurement process of a tender.	Following investigation, no fraud identified - recommendations for control improvements made	zero
Apr-19	MENA	Allegation of collusion between staff member and partner	Investigation complete - individual dismissed. Recommendations for control improvements made.	zero
Apr-19	UK	Allegation of fraud by programme partner	Under investigation - reported to police	£56,735
Apr-19	SSA	Theft of mobile phones and SIM cards on programme	Investigation completed - reported to Police. Recommendations for control improvements made.	£12,577
Apr-19	SA	Creation of fake certificates	Investigation completed - recommendations for control improvements made	zero
Apr-19	SSA	Allegation of fund diversion on programme	Following investigation, no fraud was identified - recommendations for control improvements made	zero
May-19	SA	A staff member allegedly requested payment from a temporary worker.	Investigation complete – no evidence of fraud identified. Disciplinary action plus recommendations for improvements made	zero

May-19	MENA	Theft of Tablet Computer	Investigation complete – recommendations for control improvements made	£148
May-19	SA	Allegation of procurement fraud where quoted price doubled	Following investigation, no fraud was identified - recommendations for control improvements made	zero
May-19	SSA	Alleged corruption at test venue	Investigation complete - staff member concerned dismissed. Recommendations for control improvements made.	zero
May-19	SSA	Alleged fraudulent use of a fuelling card	Investigation completed. No fraud identified. Recommendations for control improvements made.	zero
May-19	MENA	Alleged bribery of official	investigation complete - staff member concerned received a formal warning. Awareness raising re bribery completed.	zero
May-19	SSA	Allegation of corruption within exams centre	Following investigation individuals were dismissed - recommendations for control improvements made.	zero
May-19	MENA	Allegation student failed to pay fees yet attended lessons	Investigation completed. No fraud identified. Recommendations for control improvements made.	zero
May-19	SA	Allegation that travel provider has been inflating prices.	Investigation completed. No fraud identified. Recommendations for control improvements made.	zero
May-19	EU	Allegation of stolen cash from the office	Investigation completed. No fraud identified - more of a performance issue. Recommendations for control improvements made.	£390
Jun-19	EU	Text on certificate amended in application for sponsorship	Investigation completed. No fraud identified. Recommendations for control improvements made.	zero
Jun-19	Americas (AME)	External party contacted staff over social media, offering payment in exchange for exams assistance	Investigation completed - regional fraud alert sent out. Reported to relevant social media provider.	zero

Jun-19	SA	Allegation that a staff member requested a bribe from a training partner	Following investigation staff member concerned dismissed - recommendations for control improvements made.	zero
Jun-19	MENA	External party contacted staff over social media, offering payment in exchange for exams assistance	Investigation report completed - regional fraud alert sent out. Reported to relevant social media provider.	zero
Jun-19	SA	Allegation member of the public submitted forged receipt as evidence of payment	Investigation completed. No fraud identified. Recommendations for control improvements made.	zero
Jun-19	SA	Customer Services staff member appears to have submitted refund onto his personal bank card	Following investigation staff member concerned dismissed - recommendations for control improvements made	£4.40
Jun-19	SSA	Member of staff claimed maternity benefits when it is suspected she was not pregnant	Investigation completed. No fraud identified. Recommendations for control improvements made.	£6,977
Jun-19	Wider Europe (WE)	Allegation that Agency arranging office space is overcharging	Following investigation, no losses to British Council identified - appears civil issue between Agency and programme partner	zero
Jul-19	AME	External party contacted staff over social media, offering payment in exchange for exams assistance	Investigation report completed - regional fraud alert sent out. Reported to relevant social media provider.	zero
Jul-19	EU	Theft of Tablet Computer during external event	Investigation conducted - reported to police	£490
Jul-19	SA	Allegation of undeclared conflict of interest in recruitment process	Following investigation, no evidence of fraud identified - management / performance issue. Recommendations for control improvements made.	zero
Jul-19	East Asia (EA)	Conflict of interest involving staff ordering catering services.	Investigation completed. No fraud identified. Recommendations for control improvements made.	zero
Jul-19	SSA	Allegation of fraud involving a partner on programme	Investigation complete and contract with partner cancelled - recommendations for control improvements made	£2,834
Jul-19	EU	Fraudulent debit in bank account to the value of 29 euros	Investigation complete and amount refunded by bank - regional fraud alert sent out.	zero

Jul-19	EA	Allegation of a fraudulent expenses claim	Following investigation, no fraud was identified - appears to be an error. Recommendations for control improvements made	zero
Jul-19	EA	Ex-member of staff posted on social media that they could facilitate students into Universities for a fee	Following investigation, no fraud against the British Council was identified	zero
Jul-19	AME	Allegation of significant expenses fraud over several years	Following investigation individual was dismissed and reported to police - recommendation for control improvements made.	£35,000
Jul-19	EA	Theft of laptops	Following investigation, it was identified that the laptops were lost not stolen - and have now been located	£1,600
Jul-19	EU	Alleged conflict in the procurement process of a number of tenders.	Investigation complete - Reported to Police. Disciplinary ongoing	£55,935
Jul-19	SA	Alleged conflict in the procurement process of a tender.	Following investigation, no fraud was identified - recommendations for control improvements made	zero
July 19	SSA	Allegation construction contractor subcontracted work to third partner without contracts or procurement process	Following investigation, no evidence of fraud identified - contractual issue	zero
Jul-19	SSA	Allegation computer system accessed to obtain sensitive information to enable fraud.	Following investigation, no fraud was identified - recommendations for control improvements made	zero
Jul-19	MENA	Exams material identified online	Following investigation, no fraud identified	zero
July 19	SA	External party contacted staff, offering payment in exchange for exams assistance	Investigation completed - no evidence of fraud identified	zero
Jul-19	SA	Allegation ex-staff member retained identification card and used it to enable fraud	Following investigation, no fraud identified	zero
Jul-19	MENA	Attempted mandate fraud	Existing controls prevented losses - fraud alert sent out	£2,089

Jul-19	UK	Alleged theft of electronic equipment	Following investigation, no evidence of theft identified – recommendations for control improvements made	zero
Jul-19	UK	Theft of corporate credit card information	Members of staff concerned dismissed and reported to police - losses recovered from bank	£3,000
Aug-19	UK	Allegation of misuse of BC email system	Following investigation, no fraud identified - local management issue	zero
Aug-19	SSA	Allegation of procurement fraud involving conflict of interest and abuse of authority	Following investigation individual was dismissed - recommendations for control improvements made.	£4,000
Aug-19	SA	Allegation involving misuse of vehicle including failing to report an accident	Investigation complete - individual has left the organisation	£450
Aug-19	EA	Alleged theft of Exam material	Following investigation individuals were dismissed and reported to police - recommendation for control improvements made.	zero
Aug-19	SSA	Allegation of corruption with testing centre	Following investigation individuals were dismissed - recommendation for control improvements made.	zero
Aug-19	MENA	Allegation of procurement fraud within purchase of exam equipment	Investigation report completed - no fraud identified, compliance issue.	£2,405
Sep-19	SA	Allegation of corruption involving approved vendors	Investigation report completed - no fraud identified, compliance issue.	zero
Sep-19	AME	Staff member victim of credit card fraud	Improvements to controls made - fraud alert sent out	£200
Sep-19	EU	Theft of 25x laptops whilst in transit	Investigation complete - reported to Police. Recommendations for control improvements made.	£25,000
Sep-19	WE	Allegation of exam imposter	Investigation completed - no fraud against the BC identified. External scam. Reported to Police.	zero
Sep-19	EA	Allegation of fraud involving contracts for market surveys	Investigation complete – disciplinary ongoing.	zero

Sep-19	MENA	Allegation exam candidates' information was accessed which was then used to enable fraud	IGRM informed - no fraud identified; recommendation of control improvements made	zero
Sep-19	EA	External party contacted staff over social media, offering payment in exchange for exams assistance	Investigation report completed - regional fraud alert sent out. Reported to relevant social media provider.	zero
Sep-19	EU	Unauthorised direct debit of 79 euros discovered during reconciliation process	Amount refunded - fraud alert sent out.	zero
Sep-19	EU	169 euros was debited to our account in error	No fraud identified - banking issue. Existing controls identified the error.	zero
Oct-19	EA	Allegation of expenses fraud	Following investigation, no evidence of fraud was identified	zero
Oct-19	SSA	Staff member released exam information to a third party, which was then used to try and bribe a candidate	Investigation complete - individual dismissed	zero
Oct-19	UK	Allegation of theft of IT Equipment	Following investigation individual was dismissed and reported to police	£86,424
Oct-19	MENA	Allegations re fraud within the procurement of security supplier	Following investigation, no evidence of fraud identified - management issue.	zero
Oct-19	EU	Theft of cash	Investigation complete - controls improved	£100
Oct-19	SA	Alleged nepotism in the recruitment process	Following investigation, no evidence of fraud identified - management issue.	zero
Oct-19	SA	Allegation of fraud within maintenance contract	Under investigation	£14.00
Oct-19	SA	Suspected forgery by ex-member of staff	Cease & desist letter served	£1,280
Oct-19	EA	Allegation of conflict of interest	Investigation complete - individual dismissed	zero
Oct-19	SA	Alleged attempt at blackmailing staff	Following investigation, no evidence of fraud was identified	zero

Oct-19	SSA	Request for facilitation payment from official by a third party	Investigation completed - reported on to the relevant organisation	zero
Oct-19	EU	Mandate fraud on payroll	Investigation complete - existing controls prevented fraud. Reported to police. Fraud alert sent out.	£4,000
Oct-19	MENA	Alleged altering of performance rating	Following investigation, no evidence of fraud identified - management issue.	zero
Oct-19	UK	Third party credit card fraud	Money refunded from bank	£149.50
Nov-19	MENA	Potential internal link to fake adverts online	Following investigation, no link identified	zero
Nov-19	SSA	Allegation of bribery attempt	Following investigation, no evidence of fraud identified	zero
Nov-19	SSA	Allegation of corruption in supplier engagement exercise	Investigation completed – recommendations for controls improvements.	zero
Nov-19	SA	Misuse of brand for a fraudulent activity	Advice provided, no losses	zero
Nov-19	AME	Theft of laptop	Investigation complete - reported to police	£1,097
Nov-19	AME	Two individuals claiming to be endorsed and trying to recruit teachers in exchange for money.	investigation complete - alert sent out	zero
Nov-19	SA	Manipulation of test results on exam system	investigation complete - members of staff dismissed. Recommendations for control improvements made.	zero
Nov-19	AME	Theft of laptop and phone	Investigation complete - reported to police	1,142.51
Nov-19	MENA	Alleged forging of signatures	investigation complete - no evidence of fraud. Recommendations for improvements made.	zero
Nov-19	SSA	Alleged procurement and vendor management breaches	investigation complete - no evidence of fraud identified. Recommendations for control improvements made.	zero
Nov-19	SSA	Alleged collusion re venue staff payments	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	zero

Nov-19	MENA	Alleged visa fraud	Investigation complete - individual dismissed	zero
Nov-19	WE	Stolen laptop	Investigation complete - theft not confirmed, recommendations for control improvements made	£1,500
Nov-19	AME	An individual committed external fraud in British Council's name	investigation complete - advice provided. Reported to police.	zero
Nov-19	SSA	Allegation bribe was paid to staff	Investigation complete - no evidence of fraud identified	zero
Dec-19	SA	Allegation of corruption between staff	Under investigation	zero
Dec-19	SA	Potential overpayments made to a vendor for venue hire	Following a review, no evidence of fraud identified - summary report completed	zero
Dec-19	EU	Theft of laptop and camera	Investigation complete - reported to police. Controls improved	£1,261
Dec-19	SA	Submission of false invoice	Investigation completed - zero losses as existing controls prevented fraud	£6,130
Dec-19	MENA	Allegation that a teacher is offering private lessons to students	investigation complete - no evidence of fraud identified. Recommendations for improvements made.	zero
Dec-19	WE	Theft of money at grantees address	Investigation complete - reported to police. Recommendations for control improvements made	£1,280
Dec-19	EA	Allegation of corruption at a test centre	Following investigation, no evidence identified - recommendation for improvements made.	zero
Dec-19	SA	Allegation that a staff member has attempted to steal data, both electronic and in paper format.	Data breach reported to IGRM and relevant regulators. Zero losses	zero
Dec-19	SA	Alleged expenses fraud	Investigation complete - disciplinary underway	zero
Dec-19	WE	Alleged corruption by authorities linked to British Council.	Investigation complete - no evidence of fraud identified	zero

Dec-19	EA	A website optimisation vendor was suspected of using illegal bots to inflate traffic.	Investigation complete - contract terminated	zero
Dec-19	SSA	Allegation of procurement fraud	Following investigation, no evidence of fraud identified - various recommendations for control improvements made	zero
Jan-20	EA	Allegation that staff were clocking each other in when not at work	Investigation complete - no fraud identified. Recommendations for control improvements made	£100
Jan-20	WE	Forged employment letter	Following investigation, no fraud against British Council identified - fraud alert sent out	zero
Jan-20	SA	Attempt to obtain exam papers from courier	Investigation complete - security advice provided to courier company	zero
Jan-20	MENA	Allegation of bribery re payments made to cleaners for additional duties performed	Investigation suggest mismanagement rather than fraud – disciplinarys ongoing	zero
Jan-20	EA	Conflict of interest involving part-time invigilator	Investigation complete - individual dismissed.	zero
Jan-20	EA	Conflict of interest involving part-time invigilator	Investigation complete - individual dismissed.	zero
Jan-20	SA	Suspicious involvement of a third party in a programme	Investigation complete - no fraud identified. Recommendations for control improvements made	zero
Jan-20	SSA	Alleged recruitment fraud	Under investigation	TBC
Jan-20	UK	Attempted mandate fraud	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	zero
Jan-20	EU	Staff member retained a wrongful credit.	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	£1,950
Feb-20	SA	Allegation of expenses fraud	Under investigation	£1,000
Feb-20	MENA	Overclaiming working hours on timesheet	Under investigation	u/k
Feb-20	SA	Allegation of non-declared conflict of interest	Investigation complete - individual dismissed.	zero

Feb-20	AME	Allegation of conflict of interest within recruitment process	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	zero
Feb-20	SSA	Allegation of corruption at test centre	Investigation complete - individual dismissed. Recommendations for control improvements made.	zero
Feb-20	WE	Historical allegation of fraud involving collusion with partners	investigation completed - no fraud identified.	zero
Feb-20	SA	Non-compliance with policy regarding a staff social event	Investigation complete - no fraud identified. Local management issue	zero
Feb-20	MENA	Potential procurement fraud involving cheques	investigation completed - no fraud identified.	£266
Feb-20	SSA	Alleged non-compliance in asset disposal exercise	Under investigation	£5,000
Feb-20	SA	Allegation of collusion with vendor	Under investigation	u/k
Feb-20	MENA	Potential procurement fraud involving venue selection	Following review there were no specific allegations of fraud identified	zero
Feb-20	EU	Purchasing of assets for personal use	Under investigation	u/k
Feb-20	EU	Allegation of credit card fraud	investigation complete - losses recovered, reported to Police	£375
Feb-20	SA	Alleged deception and forgery by staff to disguise error	investigation complete - moving to disciplinary	zero
Feb-20	AME	Alleged expenses fraud	investigation complete - members of staff dismissed. Recommendations for control improvements made.	£2,100
Feb-20	SA	Theft at staff social event	investigation complete – disciplinary action taken	zero
Feb-20	EA	Alleged collusion between staff members	Investigation complete - no evidence of fraud identified. Recommendations for control improvements made	zero
Mar-20	EU	Allegation that exams were being given for free in exchanged for reduction in rent	Following investigation, it was identified that this was declared and within policy	zero

Mar-20	EA	Stolen mobile phone	Investigation complete - reported to Police. Recommendation for control improvements made.	£300
Mar-20	MENA	Alleged medical insurance cover fraud	Under investigation	u/k
Mar-20	SSA	Allegation beneficiary of programme funds spent them on gambling	Investigation completed - improvements to controls made. Money recovered thru partner.	£152
Mar-20	SSA	Alleged recruitment fraud	Under investigation	zero
Mar-20	UK	Theft from 2x staff members when visiting London	Reported to Police - security advice provided.	£300
Mar-20	SSA	Alleged collusion between staff and vendor	Following investigation, no evidence of fraud identified - various recommendations for control improvements made	£3,100.00