

British Council Fraud Cases 2022-2023*

Date	Location	Allegation	Outcome	Financial Losses (£ gross)
Apr-22	EA (East Asia)	Unauthorised access to security room	Investigation complete - disciplinary outcomes	zero
Apr-22	EA	Allegation of exam misconduct	Investigation complete - Recommendations for control improvements made.	zero
Apr-22	SSA (Sub-Saharan Africa)	Allegation of exam misconduct	investigation complete - no fraud identified. Performance management issues	zero
Apr-22	MENA (Middle East, North Africa)	Discrepancy in payments on teaching systems	Investigation complete - Recommendations for control improvements made.	4,580
Apr-22	EU (European Union)	Stolen mobile phone	Investigation complete - reported to police	67
Apr-22	SSA	Alleged procurement fraud - vendor requested payment into personal bank account	Investigation complete – existing controls prevented fraud	2,000
Apr-22	SA (South Asia)	Alleged forged documents by partners - re payments to trainers	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made.	2,632
Apr-22	SA	Alleged corruption on project	Investigation complete - no evidence of fraud investigated.	zero
Apr-22	SSA	Allegation of misuse of funds on project where a partner appears to have removed funds from bank account	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made.	1,155
May-22	EU	Theft of British Council stamp(s) used on official certificate	investigation complete - reported to police	zero
May-22	SSA	Allegation of exam misconduct	Investigation complete – incident recorded	zero
May-22	EA	Theft of nine laptops	Investigation complete - recommended for control improvements made	7,947
May-22	SA	Staff member offered a suspicious payment	Investigation complete - recommended for control improvements made	zero

May-22	SA	Allegation that salary on programme has not been paid	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	65
May-22	MENA	Hacking of PBX phone exchange system	Investigation report complete - loss to British Council	2,462
Jun-22	UK	Allegation re misuse of project funds	Investigation complete - no evidence of fraud identified	1,000
Jun-22	MENA	Allegation of money laundering - where sum of money was sent to British Council account by mistake	Resolved by bank - money refunded by them	12,750
Jun-22	MENA	Theft of laptops by external security guard	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made.	3,024
Jun-22	SA	Allegation of conflict of interest in recruitment process	investigation complete - no fraud identified	zero
Jun-22	SSC (Shared Service Centre – India)	Allegation of nepotism in HR processes where staff are treated unfairly re pay	investigation complete - no fraud identified	zero
Jun-22	SSC	Theft of plumbing equipment (pump and copper pipe)	Investigation completed. Zero losses as it's covered by building maintenance company.	187
Jun-22	SSA	Alleged Exam malpractice	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made.	zero
Jun-22	AME (Americas)	Alleged Exam malpractice	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made. Disciplinary requested from partner agency.	zero
Jun-22	SA	Attempted burglary where individual entered classroom and took property	Property was recovered - security reviewed	zero
Jun-22	MENA	Allegation of nepotism / Conflict of Interest (Col) in recruitment processes with venue staff	Investigation completed - no fraud identified.	zero
Jun-22	EA	3x overpayments to Exam IT outsourcing staff	Investigation complete - losses already repaid. Recommendations for control improvements made.	11,000
Jun-22	SSA	Alleged Exam malpractice	Investigation complete - Recommendations for control improvements made.	zero
Jun-22	UK	Alleged Exam malpractice	Investigation complete - Recommendations for control improvements made.	zero

Jun-22	AME	Alleged Exam malpractice	Investigation complete - Recommendations for control improvements made.	zero
Jul-22	SA	Alleged Exam malpractice	Investigation complete - Recommendations for control improvements made. Money recovered.	1,773
Jul-22	UK	Duplicate expenses claim	Investigation complete - appears error rather than fraud. Advise provided.	175
Jul-22	EU	Duplicate expenses claim	Investigation complete - appears error rather than fraud. Advise provided.	141
Jul-22	UK	Duplicate expenses claim	Investigation complete - individual has left the British Council	165
Jul-22	SSA	Report of Col between member of staff and vendor	Investigation complete - no fraud identified	zero
Jul-22	EA	Alleged Col between vendor and staff member	Investigation complete - disciplinary outcome	zero
Jul-22	WE (Wider Europe)	Col reported in Arts project - relating to catering services	investigation complete - Recommendations for improvements made.	zero
Aug-22	WE	Alleged Exam malpractice	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	zero
Aug-22	EA	Allegation of historical conflict of interest between member of staff and their spouse, who is a vendor	Investigation complete – inconclusive due to lack of evidence.	zero
Aug-22	EA	Duplicate expenses claim	Investigation complete - appears error rather than fraud. Advise provided.	98
Aug-22	SSA	Allegation of nepotism in venue staff deployment	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made.	zero
Aug-22	MENA	Alleged Exam malpractice	Investigation complete - recommended for control improvements made	zero
Aug-22	SSA	Allegation of malpractice on programme	Investigation complete - individual dismissed.	6,000
Aug-22	SSA	Allegation of mandate fraud	Fraud prevented before payment made - summary report completed	zero
Aug-22	EA	Alleged procurement fraud	Investigation complete - no fraud identified	zero
Aug-22	EA	Allegation a vendor was overpaid for services that do not appear to have been provided	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made. Money recovered.	8,300

Sep-22	EA	Concern around high charges from taxi company - allegation of unjustified trips	Investigation complete - no fraud identified. Policy changes made.	zero
Sep-22	SA	Allegation of fraud on programme involving partner organisation	Investigation complete - no evidence of fraud identified. Compliance failings.	zero
Sep-22	SSA	Alleged theft of programme property	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made. Zero losses to British Council.	15,000
Sep-22	EU	Alleged theft of laptop	Investigation complete – zero value and not being replaced.	zero
Sep-22	SA	Allegation of nepotism within selection of exam staff	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made.	zero
Sep-22	AME	Burglary of office where laptops were stolen	Investigation complete - summary report completed.	900
Sep-22	EA	Alleged creation of a fake tender document	Summary investigation report completed - individual concerned has already left British Council	zero
Sep-22	SA	Alleged fraud in procurement of exams venues	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made.	zero
Sep-22	SA	Alleged forged document	Investigation complete - individual concerned left British Council prior to conclusion of investigation - recommendations for control improvements made.	zero
Sep-22	SA	Alleged fraud in procurement of exams venues	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	zero
Sep-22	SA	Theft from vehicle of British Council laptop	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	980
Oct-22	SA	Alleged theft of a candidate's property	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	zero
Oct-22	EU	Petty cash/cheque mismanagement	investigation complete - summary report completed	zero
Oct-22	EA	Procurement concerns involving purchase of projectors	Investigation complete. Individual dismissed. No loss as achieved VfM.	zero
Oct-22	AME	Theft of laptop from person	investigation complete - advice provided	1,000

Oct-22	EA	Alleged Exam malpractice	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	zero
Oct-22	SSA	Attempted fraud of programme	Investigation complete - existing controls prevented fraud	23,523
Oct-22	EA	Alleged Exam malpractice	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	zero
Oct-22	SSA	PABX phone hacking - to call premium rate numbers	Investigation complete - no fraud identified.	3,702
Oct-22	AME	Allegation that digital signature used fraudulent to open bank account	Following investigation no evidence of fraud identified.	zero
Oct-22	SSA	Allegation bribe was requested by third party	Investigation complete - recorded for transparency purposes	zero
Oct-22	SSA	Alleged Exam malpractice	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	zero
Oct-22	EU	Theft of laptop	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	5,437
Oct-22	SSA	Burglary where laptop was stolen	Investigation complete - summary investigation report	1,064
Oct-22	SSA	Procurement fraud involving inflating prices of mobile phones	Investigation complete - no fraud identified. Recommendations for control improvements made.	2,130
Oct-22	UK	Report of Col between members of staff	Following investigation no evidence of fraud identified.	zero
Nov-22	SA	Bribe offered by third party	Investigation complete, bribe refused - summary investigation report completed	zero
Nov-22	EA	Alleged hacked email account	Investigation complete - external scam attempt. Summary report completed.	zero
Nov-22	SSA	Alleged Exam malpractice	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	zero
Nov-22	SA	Allegation data theft – reported to GIS	Investigation complete - summary report submitted	zero
Nov-22	SA	Allegation theft of IP	Following investigation, no fraud by British Council staff members has been identified	zero

Nov-22	SA	Potential conflict of interest in procurement	Investigation completed - no fraud identified. Recommendations for control improvements made.	zero
Nov-22	EA	Theft of laptop	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	1,100
Nov-22	SA	Alleged theft of candidate's property	Property recovered - summary investigation report completed	32
Nov-22	SA	Alleged theft of mobile phone	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made.	100
Nov-22	SSA	Alleged conflict of interest re medical insurance company	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	zero
Nov-22	MENA	Alleged nepotism in recruitment	Investigation complete - no evidence of fraud identified	zero
Dec-22	SA	Alleged misconduct by partner on programme	Investigation completed - no fraud identified. Recommendations for control improvements made.	zero
Dec-22	SSA	Theft of petty cash	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	10
Dec-22	SSC	Concern(s) re dual employment	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	zero
Dec-22	SSA	Allegation staff member has requested loans from colleagues	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made. Individual concerned dismissed.	zero
Dec-22	SSA	Alleged procurement fraud involving forged documents	Investigation complete - document altered to cover error - management advice provided	zero
Dec-22	EU	Unauthorised Direct debits	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	zero
Dec-22	SSC	Theft (from MV) of property	Investigation complete. Disciplinary outcome.	zero
Jan-23	WE	Alleged Exam malpractice	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	zero
Jan-23	SSA	Alleged Exam malpractice	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	zero

Jan-23	SA	Candidate using bank deposit receipt to register for exam six times	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	774
Jan-23	SA	Alleged favouritism in recruitment	Investigation complete - no fraud identified. Guidance re Col provided	zero
Jan-23	SA	Alleged misappropriate of funds	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made. More non-compliance than fraud.	zero
Jan-23	MENA	Allegations of misconduct by project partner	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made. Money recovered.	19,999
Jan-23	MENA	Allegation staff used contracted colleagues for administrative work without appropriate approval	Investigation complete - Management outcome.	zero
Jan-23	SSA	Allegation individual applied for role claiming to have qualifications they didn't have	Investigation complete – existing controls prevented fraud from taking place.	zero
Jan-23	EU	Alleged proof of payment provided via forged receipt	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	zero
Jan-23	WE	Alleged Exam malpractice	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	zero
Feb-23	SSA	Alleged Exam malpractice	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	zero
Feb-23	SA	Allegation of procurement fraud	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	zero
Feb-23	SSC	Allegation of kickback in procurement	Investigation complete. Failure of management rather than fraud.	zero
Feb-23	SSC	Allegation team members signing for other colleagues	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	zero
Feb-23	SA	Alleged recruitment fraud.	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	zero
Feb-23	SSC	Allegation bribe was offered	Investigation complete – reported for transparency reasons	zero
Feb-23	SSA	Allegation concerning dual employment by staff	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	zero

Feb-23	SSA	Alleged mandate fraud	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	zero
Feb-23	SA	Alleged Exam malpractice	Investigation complete – contracts cancelled	9
Feb-23	SA	Allegation of theft	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	zero
Feb-23	EA	Bid rigging on procurement process	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	zero
Feb-23	MENA	Allegation of theft	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made. Individual concerned dismissed.	15
Feb-23	SA	Alleged fraud by a vendor	Under investigation	TBC
Feb-23	SA	Alleged expenses fraud by a grantee	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	zero
Feb-23	SA	Alleged tax fraud by vendor	Investigation complete - no fraud identified. Recommendations for control improvements made.	zero
Mar-23	EU	Concerns raised about member of staff - red flags re behaviour	investigation complete - no fraud identified	zero
Mar-23	SSA	Allegation of nepotism by consultant	Under investigation	TBC
Mar-23	SA	Allegation of malpractice and nepotism on programme	Under investigation	TBC
Mar-23	EA	Alleged Exam malpractice	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	zero
Mar-23	EU	Accountancy issue	summary report completed- no fraud identified	zero
Mar-23	MENA	Alleged Exam malpractice	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	zero
Mar-23	MENA	Allegation external contractor has not been paid	Investigation complete - recommendation for control improvements made	350
Mar-23	SA	Alleged non-declaration of Col	Under investigation	TBC

Mar-23	SSA	Misuse of taxis for personal trips	Investigation complete - recommendation for control improvements made	zero
Mar-23	SSA	Allegation of misuse of procurement card	Under investigation	TBC
Mar-23	SSA	Gift received but not declared	Under investigation	TBC
Mar-23	SSA	Allegation of expenses fraud	Investigation complete - recommendation for control improvements made	4,819

**at time of writing 18.10.23*