

British Council Fraud Cases 2024-25

Date	Region	Allegation	Outcome	Financial Losses (£ gross)*
Apr-24	EA (East Asia)	Staff member had dual employment	Investigation complete - individual concerned resigned	0
Apr-24	SSA (Sub-Saharan Africa)	Theft (burglary) of laptop	Summary report completed	1,200
Apr-24	UK	Theft of laptop & mobile phone	Summary report completed	1,200
Apr-24	WE (Wider Europe)	Theft of laptop	Summary report completed	
Apr-24	EU (European Union)	Alleged procurement fraud involving release of tender docs.	investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Apr-24	EA	Expenses fraud	investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Apr-24	SA (South Asia)	Theft (robbery) of mobile phone and cash	investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	918
Apr-24	SA	Potential data breach which may be enabling fraud	investigation complete - individuals concerned dismissed - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Apr-24	MENA	Failed bribery attempt by Exam Candidate	Bribe not accepted - summary report completed	0
May-24	SSA	Alleged fraud re staff work allocation	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
May-24	SSA	Failure to declare CoI (conflict of interest) which resulted in potential fraud	investigation complete - disciplinary outcome	0
May-24	EA	Exam malpractice reporting involving partner test centre.	investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
May-24	EA	Potential dual employment and CoI case	investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
May-24	SSC	Potential theft of office assets	investigation complete - recommendations from control improvements made	0

May-24	SA	Concern around corruption on procurement contracts	Investigation complete - no fraud identified. Non-compliance.	0
May-24	EA	Allegation of potential dual employment	investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Jun-24	SA	Alleged exam remote access	investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Jun-24	SA	Advance fee fraud	Investigation complete – contract cancelled	0
Jun-24	SA	Alleged theft/non return of laptop	Investigation complete - losses recovered	631
Jun-24	SSA	Theft of safe (recovered)	Investigation complete - zero losses	0
Jun-24	SSA	Theft (robbery) of test certificates	investigation complete - zero losses	0
Jun-24	SSA	Potential collusion with OCG (Organised Crime Group)	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Jun-24	SSA	Historical incident of procurement fraud / Col	Investigation complete - no fraud identified.	0
Jun-24	EA	Potential expenses fraud involving taxi receipts	investigation complete - one individual dismissed	392
Jun-24	SSA	Alleged exam malpractice	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Jun-24	SA	Suspected expenses fraud - forged hotel bill	Investigation complete - no fraud identified. Recommendations for control improvements made.	0
Jul-24	SSA	36x tablets stolen	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	4,200
Jul-24	EA	Potential collusion with OCG (Organised Crime Group)	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Jul-24	SA	Allegation of procurement fraud	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Jul-24	MENA	Alleged forged employment letters	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made.	0

Jul-24	SSA	Allegation of conflict of interest	investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made. Individual concerned dismissed.	0
Jul-24	SA	Theft of colleague's wallet by a third party	investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Jul-24	SA	Theft of laptop	investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	800
Jul-24	SSA	Procurement fraud re selection of vendor	Investigation complete - individual dismissed	0
Jul-24	AME	Theft of mobile phone	Investigation complete - identified it was not British Council property	0
Jul-24	SA	Theft of mobile phone	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made.	282
Jul-24	SA	Allegation of procurement fraud	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made.	0
Jul-24	SA	Theft of mobile phone	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made.	391
Aug-24	SA	Allegation of exam malpractice	Investigation complete - person reporting victim of external scam	0
Aug-24	SA	Alleged invoice fraud	Investigation complete - tax refunded (zero losses) contract cancelled	14,520
Aug-24	MENA	Alleged breach of exams security	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made.	0
Aug-24	SSA	Allegations of improper use of assets	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made.	0
Aug-24	EA	Misuse of courier waybills for personal consignments	contracted staff member dismissed - money recovered	20
Aug-24	EA	Misuse of BC Exams system	investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Aug-24	SA	Dual employment and failing to declare Col	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Sep-24	SA	Misuse of BC Exams system	Investigation complete - allegations not substantiated	0

Sep-24	SA	Allegations of fraud and corruption against a third-party security supervisor	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	239
Sep-24	EU	Theft of laptop	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made.	1,160
Sep-24	SA	Alleged invoice fraud	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Sep-24	SA	Alleged tax fraud	investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Oct-24	SSA	OCG approached staff member asking how they could introduce imposters.	investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Oct-24	AME	External party provided information to an individual who claimed to be from the British Council.	Summary report completed	0
Oct-24	SA	Misuse of project funds for personal items	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Oct-24	SSA	Leak of exams material pre-test	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Oct-24	SA	Theft of mobile phone	Reported to Police	340
Oct-24	AME	Fake certificate identified	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Oct-24	EA	Concern re cleaning contract where it appears staff are being significantly underpaid.	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Oct-24	EA	Staff member appears to be claiming expenses and salary they're not entitled to	Investigation complete - disciplinary outcome	0
Oct-24	MENA	Allegation external party offered money to CS staff in exchange for data	Investigation complete - summary report completed	0
Oct-24	SA	Allegation re VS attendance management	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Oct-24	SA	Potential conflict of interest and non-compliance with procurement policy.	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Oct-24	SSA	Allegation re potential malpractice in Exam	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made. Results cancelled and candidates banned.	0

Oct-24	AME	Bribery allegations	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Oct-24	SSA	Allegation of dual employment	investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Oct-24	SSA	Theft of diesel	investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	3,886
Oct-24	MENA	Staff member claimed they were unwell when they were working elsewhere for overtime	investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Oct-24	UK	Theft of rucksack containing British Council laptop	investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	925
Oct-24	UK	Theft of British Council mobile phone	investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	419
Oct-24	MENA	Ex-staff member made claim against medical insurance they weren't entitled to	investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Oct-24	SSA	Theft of mobile phone	investigation complete - control recommendations made	1,075
Oct-24	UK	Allegation that UK member of staff receiving London allowance is living overseas	investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Nov-24	EA	Suspected leak at test centre	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Nov-24	EU	Possible compromise of British Council bank account from which third party tax has been paid	investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	2,070
Nov-24	SSA	Samsung tablets stolen	investigation complete - £1,392 recovered from insurance	1,547
Nov-24	EA	Alleged exam malpractice at test centre where candidates' details swapped on the system	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Nov-24	SA	Allegation that an individual requested a bribe payment for delivery of a TRF	investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Nov-24	SSA	Alleged dual employment	investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Nov-24	SA	Alleged kickbacks from exam delivery partner	investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0

Nov-24	SA	Alleged expenses fraud	investigation complete - disciplinary outcome	428
Nov-24	SA	Alleged IELTS cheating with link to UK	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Nov-24	SSA	Allegation of inflated costs / overbilling by supplier	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	524
Nov-24	SA	Allegation that programme works has not been completed as per contract.	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Dec-24	EA	Allegation of exam malpractice. Potential paper leaks.	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Dec-24	EU	Member of staff created a reference letter and forged signature of CD.	Investigation complete - individual dismissed.	0
Dec-24	EA	Theft of laptop	investigation complete - summary report completed. Zero losses as laptop found.	0
Dec-24	SSA	Theft of laptop	investigation complete - summary report completed	1,169
Dec-24	UK	Theft of mobile phone	investigation complete - summary report completed	628
Dec-24	SA	Theft of mobile charger - seen on CCTV	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Dec-24	SSA	Theft (robbery) of TRFs in transit	investigation complete - summary report completed	0
Dec-24	SA	Use of office vehicle for personal trips	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Dec-24	SA	Allegations around vender selection	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Dec-24	SA	Medical insurance company reported that a member of staff had made a fraudulent claim	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Dec-24	AME	Allegations of malpractice against a IELTS exam centre	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Dec-24	EA	Offer of bribe to secure exam result	Bribe not accepted - summary report only	0

Jan-25	MENA	Potential malpractice at an IELTS venue	Investigation complete - contract cancelled with delivery partner	0
Jan-25	EA	Contracted partners misleading profits to minimise commission potentially enabled by a British Council member of staff	Investigation complete. No fraud identified altho legal action being considered for recovery related to contractual issues	85,271
Jan-25	MENA	Potential misuse of position at British Council	Investigation completed - individual concerned dismissed	0
Jan-25	SSA	IELTS papers delivered with package appears to have been tampered with	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Jan-25	SA	Alleged remote assistance with common answer errors	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Jan-25	SA	Collusion between VS and TT to facilitate identity swops	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Jan-25	SSA	Theft of mobile phone	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	226
Feb-25	SA	Multiple complaints of alleged malpractice	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Feb-25	AME	Allegation of TTs wearing hidden earpieces during Exams	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Feb-25	SSA	Bribe offered to staff by TT	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Feb-25	EA	Allegations of exam malpractice	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Feb-25	SSA	Misuse of taxis for personal trip	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	40
Feb-25	SA	Theft of mobile phone	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	686
Feb-25	SSC	Alleged kickback requests being made to contracted staff	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Feb-25	EA	Alleged Exam paper leak	Investigation complete - individual dismissed	0

Feb-25	EA	Suspected terrorism financing	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made. Reported to NCA, FCDO & Charity Commission	0
Mar-25	SA	Bribe offered to staff	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Mar-25	SSA	Bribe offered to staff	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Mar-25	SA	Potential procurement fraud involving the purchase of IT equipment	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Mar-25	SSA	Staff overclaiming hours	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made.	240
Mar-25	SSA	Alleged theft by staff	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made.	0
Mar-25	SSA	Allegation of favouritism of venue staff and payment for work not done	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Mar-25	SSA	Alleged bribery offence	investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Mar-25	WE	Landlord requested assistance in exam score for family member	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Mar-25	EU	Allegation of Col in the procurement of artists for an event	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Mar-25	SSA	Theft of mobile phone	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	314
Mar-25	EA	Staff member dual employment	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Mar-25	SSA	Theft of 13x tablets	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	1,911
Mar-25	SA	Theft of various commodities, food stuff, fuel	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
Mar-25	SA	Alleged procurement fraud	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0

Mar-25	SSA	Alleged theft of money from TT at exams venue	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	0
--------	-----	---	--	---

**at time of writing*