

Appendix 1 – Case study – social housing tenancy fraud investigations

2024/25

Housing Application Fraud, Leading to Recovery of City of London Tenancy

This case was referred by the Housing Officer on the City's Southwark Estate due to rent arrears and the failure of the tenant to engage with the City of London. Credit checks carried out by the Counter Fraud team revealed that all the tenant's links are at a social housing address in Hackney, despite the City address allegedly being their only home.

Through liaison with peers in the Counter Fraud team at Hackney Council the team established that the tenant has large rent arrears with them and is in the process of being evicted. A review of the declarations made by the tenant during their application for housing with the City found that the tenant had, indeed, declared this address during their application, but failed to disclose the true circumstances around it, had they done so, they would have been ineligible for housing at the City and the application would have been cancelled.

Further intelligence enquiries suggested that the tenant had been sub-letting the property in Hackney since becoming a City of London housing tenant, whilst more detailed enquiries revealed that the tenant had made further false declarations surrounding their City connection, providing counterfeit employment documents, payslips and falsifying letters to give the impression that they had an eligible City connection.

The tenant was interviewed under caution admitting that they declared wrongful employment during the housing application and admitted to providing false proof of employment proof however, they maintained that their work was still in The City boundaries at the time the application was made, providing a list of addresses where they work for their current employer.

Contact was made with the current employer, which identified that the locations declared for workplaces currently and previously were false, in fact none were within the square mile.

The tenant had made several dishonest and duplicitous declarations and furnished false documents throughout the application process.

The tenant has been evicted from social housing with a criminal case to be heard in the Crown court.