

British Council Fraud Cases 2020-21

Date	Location	Allegation	Outcome	Financial Loss (£gross)
Apr-20	EU (European Union)	Attempted scam involving false outstanding debt	Investigation complete - advice provided. Losses prevented.	6,000
Apr-20	SA (South Asia)	Allegation that a partner submitted a false invoice	Investigate complete - contract terminated. Existing controls prevented fraud.	95
Apr-20	UK	Expense fraud	Investigation complete - individual responsible has refunded the money and left the organisation	2,155
Apr-20	UK	Attempted mandate fraud - no specified amount	Investigation complete - existing controls prevented any loss	zero
Apr-20	SSA (Sub-Saharan Africa)	Multiple chargebacks on credit cards	Investigation complete - advice provided	zero
Apr-20	SA	Donor reported an allegation of misconduct inc concerns with recruitment	Investigation complete - no evidence of fraud identified	zero
Apr-20	SA	Allegation re procurement fraud for the service of an external venue	Investigation complete - individual dismissed	zero
Apr-20	SA	Theft of mobile phone	Investigation complete - historical allegation	450
Apr-20	EU	Spend on an ex-staff members corporate card months after they left the organisation	Investigation complete - no fraud against British Council identified	1,400
May-20	EA (East Asia)	Changing of documents to support audit	Following investigation no evidence of fraud identified - recommendations for control improvements made	zero
May-20	SA	Staff member offered bribe for exam information over social media	Fraud alert sent out	zero
May-20	SSA	Concern re a candidate repeated requests for refunds	Investigation complete - no evidence of fraud identified	zero

May-20	SA	Allegation re possible collusion	Investigation handed over to partner	zero
May-20	EA	Unauthorised emails sent inc attachments	Following investigation no fraud identified - non-compliance issues	zero
May-20	MENA (Middle East North Africa)	Allegation of collusion within team	Following investigation - no evidence of fraud identified	zero
Jun-20	SA	Allegation that a member of staff is under investigation for an external fraud	Investigation complete - disciplinary outcome	zero
Jun-20	UK	Suspected payment/ID fraud	Investigation complete - no fraud identified	zero
Jun-20	SSA	Request for bribe payment from partner	Investigation complete - individual dismissed. Awareness raising work being conducted	zero
Jun-20	EU	Allegation customer attempted to defraud via fake documents	Investigation complete - no evidence of fraud identified	zero
Jun-20	SSA	Potential candidate malpractice	Following review not a matter for the British Council	zero
Jun-20	EU	Allegations of potential fraud relating to payment from salary and not declaring a conviction	Investigation complete - no evidence of fraud identified	zero
Jun-20	UK	Alleged procurement fraud involving systems contract	Investigation complete - no evidence of fraud.	zero
Jun-20	SA	Allegation re misuse of vehicle	Investigation complete - no fraud identified. Recommendation for control improvements made.	zero
Jun-20	MENA	Alleged nepotism in recruitment process	Investigation complete - no evidence of fraud identified	zero
Jun-20	SA	Attempted scam attempt	No fraud identified - scam attempt	zero
Jun-20	MENA	Alleged procurement fraud on security contract.	Investigation complete - no fraud identified.	zero
Jun-20	MENA	Alleged procurement fraud on shipping contract	Investigation complete - no evidence of fraud identified	zero
Jun-20	SSA	Duplicate payment made to vendor	Investigation complete - disciplinary outcome	6,412

Jul-20	EA	Tender document provided to satisfy audit	Following investigation no evidence of fraud identified - non-compliance issue	zero
Jul-20	MENA	Allegation of fraud in Exam process	Following investigation no evidence of fraud identified	zero
Jul-20	SA	Ex-staff member not removed from the list of bank signatories	Following investigation - no evidence of fraud identified	zero
Jul-20	SA	List of suspicious claims detected	Investigation complete - no evidence of fraud identified	610
Jul-20	SA	Theft of a laptop	Stolen laptop was recovered by police	zero
Jul-20	EA	Confidential content posted on social media	Investigation complete - disciplinary outcome. Sanctioned by local authorities.	zero
Jul-20	SSA	Scam Employee Onboarding Mail Attempt	Following investigation it was identified that this was an unsuccessful scam attempt	zero
Jul-20	SA	Suspicion of procurement fraud	Investigation complete - no evidence of fraud identified	zero
Jul-20	SSA	Suspected Collusion within writing exam	Following investigation no fraud identified - non-compliance issues	zero
Aug-20	SA	Procurement fraud within exams venues	Investigation complete - two staff members dismissed.	34,842
Aug-20	EA	Staff member paid PO with her own money and reclaimed thru expenses	Following investigation no evidence of fraud identified - non-compliance issue	128
Aug-20	SA	Suspected dual employment	Investigation complete - no evidence of fraud identified	zero
Aug-20	UK	Expense's non-compliance	Investigation complete - no fraud identified	zero
Aug-20	UK	Credit card details found on staff members computer	Following investigation no fraud identified - info was for testing purposes only and not genuine card details	zero
Aug-20	UK	Allegation of social media hack	Losses repaid - additional controls introduced	9,882
Aug-20	EU	Alleged expense fraud	Following investigation, no fraud against the British Council identified	zero

Sep-20	EA	Theft of papers in transit	Investigation complete - reported to police.	zero
Sep-20	SA	Review of procurement issues	Investigation complete - failures of compliance identified.	zero
Sep-20	SSA	Forged signature on a document	Investigation complete - disciplinary outcome	zero
Sep-20	UK	Concerns re scam email	Following investigation no fraud identified	zero
Sep-20	UK	Staff member victim of phishing attempt	Investigation complete - no other issues identified	zero
Sep-20	SA	Report from vendor of kickback being made	Investigation complete - individual dismissed	8,427
Sep-20	AME	Theft of laptop	investigation complete - reported to police	871
Sep-20	EA	Gaining pecuniary advantage by not declaring criminal record	Investigation complete - individual left the organisation.	zero
Sep-20	SA	Fraud within exam processes	Investigation complete - relevant staff members (six) have had their contracts terminated	zero
Sep-20	SSA	Individual came into office complaining about fake certificate	Investigation complete - relevant organisation blocked	zero
Sep-20	MENA	Possible procurement fraud	Following investigation, no fraud identified. Compliance issue. Disciplinary outcome.	zero
Oct-20	SSA	Allegation of exam fraud	Investigation complete - individual dismissed	zero
Oct-20	SSA	Data request sent without genuine requirement	Investigation complete - individual subject of management advice	zero
Oct-20	EA	Staff member working for prep company	Investigation complete - individual dismissed.	zero
Oct-20	MENA	Staff promoting external organisation	Following investigation no fraud identified	zero
Oct-20	SSA	Allegation of expense fraud	Investigation complete - four dismissed	5166
Oct-20	SSA	Cash payment for exam was diverted	Investigation complete - individual dismissed	194
Oct-20	EA	Test Centre asked if they could secure specific grades	Investigation complete – improvements to control framework made	zero

Oct-20	SA	Concern that member of call centre staff has assisted with an exam score	Following investigation no evidence of fraud identified	zero
Oct-20	SSA	Theft of fuel from generator	Investigation complete - no evidence of theft identified. Recommendations for improvements made.	zero
Oct-20	UK	Fraudulent transactions on corporate card	Investigation complete - bank refunded losses	15.49
Oct-20	UK	Scam emails sent out re applying for a voucher	Investigation complete - fraud prevented therefore zero losses.	13,340
Oct-20	SSA	Suspected conflict of interest	Investigation complete - disciplinary outcome	zero
Oct-20	SA	Money stolen from staff	Investigation complete – individual concerned dismissed Money recovered.	12.00
Nov-20	SA	Nepotism in recruitment	Following investigation no evidence of fraud identified	zero
Nov-20	SSA	Hack of social media ad billing accounts	Investigation complete - money refunded	17,264
Nov-20	EU	External party selling fake certificates	Investigation complete – alert sent out	zero
Nov-20	AME	Fraud on corporate card	Investigation complete - losses recovered from bank	316
Nov-20	EA	Allegation of expense fraud	Investigation complete - Individual dismissed.	3648
Nov-20	UK	Attempt to defraud external organisations by offering grant	Investigation complete - reported to Police	zero
Nov-20	EA	Individual posting exam content on social media	Investigation complete - disciplinary action taken	zero
Nov-20	EU	Theft of IT equipment	Investigation complete - recommendations for control improvements made	483
Nov-20	MENA	Allegation of undisclosed Col re commissions paid on contracts	Following investigation no evidence of fraud identified - recommendations for control improvements made	zero
Nov-20	MENA	Candidate reporting on exam fraud	Investigation complete - no evidence of fraud identified	zero

Nov-20	MENA	Scam to offer candidates exam scores	Investigation complete - no evidence of fraud identified	zero
Nov-20	EA	Failure to declare business interest	Investigation complete - individual dismissed	zero
Dec-20	EA	Stolen laptops	Investigation complete - individual concerned left organisation	2168
Dec-20	SSA	Potential Col between member of staff and vendor	Investigation complete - no fraud identified, compliance failings	zero
Dec-20	UK	Suspected dual employment	Investigation complete - reported to police	zero
Dec-20	SA	Allegation of paper leak	Investigation complete - no evidence of fraud identified. Recommendations for control improvements made.	zero
Dec-20	SA	Allegations of kickbacks received from vendors	Investigation complete - no evidence of fraud identified, altho a number of control failings identified.	zero
Dec-20	SSA	Alleged procurement fraud on catering contract	Investigation complete - member of staff dismissed	500
Dec-20	EU	Potential suspected irregularities on programme payments and on working from home expense allowance	Investigation complete - no evidence of fraud identified. Recommendations for control improvements made.	zero
Dec-20	SSA	Col and nepotism in venue.	Investigation complete - disciplinary resulted in two members of staff dismissed and two receiving written warnings	zero
Dec-20	SSA	Dual Employment	Investigation complete - Individual left organisation	6,472
Jan-21	EA	Allegation of expenses fraud	Investigation complete – disciplinary outcome.	32
Jan-21	SA	Alleged procurement fraud on tendering process	Following investigation no evidence of fraud identified - recommendations for control improvements made	zero
Jan-21	EU	Civil debit / dual payment over vehicle hire	Investigation complete - reported to police	5,990

Jan-21	MENA	Allegation of recruitment fraud as well as a claim for non-dependant travel	Investigation complete - no evidence of fraud identified. Recommendations for control improvements made.	zero
Jan-21	SSA	Allegation of procurement fraud on project	Investigation complete - no evidence of fraud identified. Recommendations for control improvements made.	zero
Jan-21	EA	Allegation of social media showing exam material	Investigation complete - no evidence of fraud identified.	zero
Jan-21	EA	Theft of mobile phone	Investigation complete - reported to police	zero
Jan-21	SSA	Allegation of nepotism	Investigation complete - no evidence of fraud identified. Recommendations for control improvements made.	zero
Feb-21	UK	Alleged overtime/payroll fraud	Investigation complete - no evidence of fraud identified. Recommendations for control improvements made.	zero
Feb-21	EA	Alleged offer of a bribe	Investigation complete – Police informed	zero
Feb-21	SA	Allegation of exam interference	Investigation complete - no evidence of fraud identified. Recommendations for control improvements made.	zero
Feb-21	SA	Allegation of procurement fraud involving changing a contract	Investigation complete - no evidence of fraud identified. Recommendations for control improvements made.	zero
Feb-21	SSA	Exam related scam emails	Investigation complete – reported to service provider	zero
Feb-21	SA	Allegations of papers being sold	Investigation complete - no evidence of fraud identified. Recommendations for control improvements made.	zero
Feb-21	SSA	Allegation of expenses fraud	Investigation complete - disciplinary action taken	89
Feb-21	SA	Allegation of procurement fraud	Investigation complete - no evidence of fraud identified. Recommendations for control improvements made.	zero

Feb-21	WE (Wider Europe)	Allegation of grade fixings by fake agents	Following investigation no evidence of fraud identified	zero
Feb-21	EA	Alleged exam fraud	Investigation complete - no evidence of fraud identified. Recommendations for control improvements made.	zero
Feb-21	EA	Charge for a service that didn't take place	Investigation complete - no fraud against British Council. Vendor provided refund.	767
Mar-21	AME	Burglary at British Council premises	Investigation complete - reported to police	2,984
Mar-21	SA	Document amended to cover up mistake	Investigation complete - disciplinary action taken	zero
Mar-21	MENA	Allegation of procurement fraud	Investigation complete. Member of staff concerned dismissed.	3,600
Mar-21	SSA	Allegation of nepotism	Investigation complete - no evidence of fraud identified. Recommendations for control improvements made.	zero
Mar-21	SA	Alleged nepotism in recruitment process	Investigation complete - individual dismissed	zero
Mar-21	EA	Alleged cover up of exams breach	Investigation complete - no evidence of fraud identified. Management issues.	zero
Mar-21	EA	Former intern linked to cheating service companies	Investigation complete - disciplinary action taken	zero
Mar-21	SSA	Attempt to manipulate internal documents	Investigation complete - individual has left the organisation	zero
Mar-21	SSA	Allegation of false vendor and forged documents	Investigation complete - no evidence of fraud identified. Recommendations for control improvements made.	zero
Mar-21	SSA	Forged medical certificates provided	Investigation complete - individual dismissed	zero
Mar-21	SSA	Tax and payroll remittance evasion by vendor	Investigation complete - not relevant to British Council	zero
Mar-21	AME	Allegation of Col in recruitment process	Following investigation no fraud identified	zero

Mar-21	SA	Email scam against staff member	Investigation complete - reported to police	300
Mar-21	SA	Allegation of fraud in exam process	Investigation complete - handed over to partner	zero
Mar-21	SSA	External forgery of contract documents	Investigation complete - fraud prevented	zero
Mar-21	SA	Alteration of attendance records	Investigation complete – contract cancelled	zero