

To: Edmund Ward[Edmund.Ward@ofgem.gov.uk]
Cc: Counter Fraud[CounterFraud@ofgem.gov.uk]
From: Samantha Turnbull
Sent: 2016-12-09T15:15:43Z
Importance: Normal
Subject: FW: URGENT: Suspected Fraud Case - S Brimstone's RHI appl no redacted by the RHI Inquiry [OFFICIAL Internal Only]
Received: 2016-12-09T15:15:44Z

Hi Edmund,

Sorry for the slight delay, just been chatting to Stuart F about the comms!

As requested by Gareth, please see the events from a Counter Fraud perspective. Please just let me know if you'd like more (or less!) detail, as we have an extensive log.

10 May 2016

We received an anonymous external allegation in the form of a letter with no contact details. The notifier claimed that the party in question has a wood pellet boiler registered for NDRHI which is installed in his shed at the rear of his house. The notifier alleged that the reason the party in question is able to gain NDRHI is that they're falsely claiming that the installation is heating an agricultural shed but that it is a domestic property.

The notifier claims that the shed is not agricultural and that he is using the pellet boiler to heat his 'mansion home at taxpayers' expense'. The notifier also stated that the party in question has a flock number but has no sheep which correspond to that flock number. He also claims that the party in question has no land to farm.

A Counter Fraud case was opened and an audit was requested.

15 July 2016

Update received that the audit had taken place. The report was in draft form and so the Counter Fraud Team did not see it at this point.

8 August 2016

It was confirmed that a request further evidence of non-domestic status would be undertaken by the Audit Team.

25 August 2016

Counter Fraud team were notified that the matter has been escalated to Chris Poulton for decision.

05 October 2016

It was determined by the compliance team that this site meets eligibility criteria and ongoing obligations so no further action is required. The suspected fraud case was recommended for closure (however this was not approved due to the email received on 10 October, see below).

10 October 2016

We received an email from the office of a Member of the Northern Ireland Assembly which had an anonymous external informant letter (similar to the original one) attached.

14 October 2016

We received an enquiry from the police as they had also received a letter from an anonymous external informant (again similar to the original one) in relation to this application. Further advice was sought from the legal team and the application was shared with the police.

01 November 2016

The police concluded that "there isn't any cause for concern in relation to this application".

03 November 2016

Following the email from the police, both Counter Fraud and legal (John Jackson) were satisfied that this concludes the matter from a counter fraud perspective and as such another recommendation for closure was sent to the Head of Counter Fraud for approval.

Hope this is helpful.

Thanks, Sam

From: Gareth John

Sent: 09 December 2016 13:57

To: Jane Pierce; Edmund Ward; Samantha Turnbull

Cc: Teri Clifton; James Robinson; James Kilmartin; Michael Knight; Chris Poulton; Alison Hardie; Karen Boyle; Stuart Forsyth; John Jackson

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All,

This is the sensitive referral case that DfE have just indicated may go public, and there is a suggestion that individuals may be named. Edmund/(Sam), as discussed.

Can you summarise events for us from a receipt of referral to date and then Sam can also add position with her CF investigation.

James/Michael, I understand DfE are pressing for details on the investigation – so if you can advise Sam on approach here and what we would normally disclose.

We really need to be in a position to have this view today as DfE have requested the information for first thing Monday morning.

We should also prepare Lines to Take for press in the event something breaks tonight / over the weekend. (Stuart / Alison if you can support us on this)

Rgds
Received from OFGEM on 22.05.2017

Annotated by RHI Inquiry