

Counter Fraud Factsheet

False Document Fraud



What is it?

The falsification of documents or the creation of entirely false documents used with the intention of obtaining financial advantage. This can include falsifying a career history, claiming to have qualifications not obtained or using a false identity to secure employment.

Case Example

A woman who stole a doctor's identity in an attempt to gain work within the NHS was jailed for two years and four months.

Despite not holding the necessary qualifications the subject opted to steal the identity of a doctor with a similar name and then applied for a number of vacancies using the GMC reference number of the legitimate doctor. She tricked employment agencies into believing she was a registered GP by providing false documents including a marriage certificate, GMC certificate and various other medical documents, and also used a false driving licence and passport.

Her crimes came to light when she was arrested at a community pharmacy for attempting to cash two prescriptions she had written herself.

At Court she pleaded guilty to four counts of Fraud by False Representation, three counts of Forgery and two counts of possessing a false identity document with intent.

How to prevent this type of fraud

The following information should be obtained and verified:

- Verify where the applicant has studied or been employed, including their current employer.
- Undertake a proof of identity check.
- Request original certificates of relevant qualifications and retain a copy on file.
- Undertake verification of nationality/immigration status, where applicable.
- Undertake Enhanced Disclosure checks through Access NI.
- Undertake pre-assessment health checks