

Case studies for Audit Committee November 2019

Case 1

This case was referred by a Housing Manager who suspected a fraudulent succession claim. The applicant for succession of the property was Mr Shafiqur Rahman. He claimed to be the nephew of the deceased and that he had been living at the property for more than a year prior to the death of his 'Uncle'.

In June 2016 Shafiqur Rahman formally applied for succession. The application was dealt with under the second succession principles. Subsequent investigation proved that many of the documents produced by Mr Rahman had been forged. Mr Rahman produced a British Gas utility bill, driving licence, Barclays bank statements, birth certificates, insurance documents etc. most of the documents had been falsified and/or modified.

Statements were obtained from the deceased's care worker and neighbour who confirmed that only one family member had visited in the time they had known the deceased and they did not know of Mr. Rahman. The deceased had never mentioned Mr. Rahman in any conversations.

Mr Rahman was prosecuted and convicted of fraud. On the 1 August 2019 at Snaresbrook Crown Court, he was sentenced to 2 years imprisonment which was suspended for 18 months. He was also required to complete 150 hours unpaid community work.

The conviction was reported in the press:

<https://www.eastlondonadvertiser.co.uk/news/shafiqur-rahman-fraud-1-6213466>

Case 2

An officer working in the Housing Department and his partner were found to be misusing a residents parking permit by renewing the permit application, and parking within the borough after they had moved to another area.

The couple had purchased a property in a neighbouring borough in 2011 and had moved to that address, but renewed the residents permit purporting to still live in the borough even though their tenancy here had been relinquished in 2011. The officer, in his official capacity, had counter signed the notice of intention to vacate the LBTH tenancy and the parking space in 2011.

However, the parking permit was observed as being used in a vehicle on more than one occasion in 2017 parked in the E2 area.

The case was taken to court and charges brought against the officer and the partner. Both gave guilty pleas at Thames Magistrates Court in July and each was sentenced to 2 years Conditional Discharge and a fine. The officer faced disciplinary action and was dismissed from his job.