

A Joint Letter from David White, Head of Fraud Investigation Service and Martin Harvey, Chief Executive of the Macfarlane Trust.

We met in April 2010 at the offices of the Macfarlane Trust.

The Trust's main concern was that there had been cases where beneficiaries of the Macfarlane Trust had been asked to attend an interview under caution arising from anti-fraud data matching processes that flag up undeclared capital and income.

The Trust wanted to establish whether there was any way beneficiaries of the Macfarlane Trust could be excluded from fraud investigations as a result of their apparent non declaration of income or capital when means tested benefits are claimed. It was recognised that in most cases these investigations start because of data matching carried out between Government Departments and there is no way that matches relating to beneficiaries can be separated out. We did agree that between our organisations we will do all we can to minimise the risk of beneficiaries being called to a fraud investigation interview. Internal processes are being created to make this happen. If you are called to such an interview please feel free to quote or show this letter. The investigator will know what action to then take.

The Trust was also keen to "flag up" to the Fraud Investigation Service that data matching arising from the new non-discretionary payments from MFET Ltd could be a difficulty in the near future and it was the Trust's express wish to head-off any concerns the Fraud Investigation Service might have if these are identified by data matching as soon as possible.

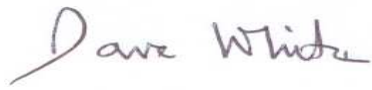
Arising from this April meeting, we are working with the DWP Fraud Investigation Service to draft a circular that will go to the front-line offices advising them of the various developments in respect of disbursements to the Trust's primary beneficiary community or, as far as MFET and the non-discretionary payments are concerned, the "eligible person" that will come across their desks in due course.

The Trust has a welfare rights adviser to call upon when his services are required. If you are asked to attend an interview in connection with your payments, you should first contact this office before doing anything. Do not attend the interview until you have done this and obtained our advice. It is fair to say that in the great scheme of things, over-zealous approaches by officials are relatively few and far between and the DWP is very keen to do all they can to ensure that disruption to the lives of those connected with the Macfarlane Trust is kept to an absolute minimum.

Contact MFT Support Services on 020 7808 1176 e-mail roz@macfarlane.org.uk as the first step. We can then take matters further.

From the point of view of Jobcentre Plus, we were glad to have once again the opportunity to alert our fraud investigation teams to this matter. We were particularly pleased to be able to do all we reasonably can to try and isolate a

small but important sector from the many thousands of investigations we undertake each year; this will help us move forward.



Dave White
Head of Fraud Investigation
Jobcentre Plus



Martin Harvey
Chief Executive
Macfarlane Trust

