

Counter fraud, bribery and corruption

A fraud that is perpetrated against a public body is never a victimless crime. Those who rely on government services, such as the elderly, the vulnerable, the sick and the disadvantaged, are often the ones most harmed directly or indirectly by fraud. For them, fraud can have very real and irreversible consequences, amplifying the disadvantage, vulnerability and inequality they suffer.

In a similar vein, bribery and corruption can have a devastating impact on public services, diminishing trust in government and public institutions and undermining the rule of law. It can also increase or entrench inequality, undermine social cohesion and place a brake on innovation and economic growth. Every civil servant therefore has a responsibility to be alert to the possible signs of such activity.

Description

As a civil servant, you're expected to act and make decisions in line with the Civil Service Code and the organisation's values of integrity, honesty, objectivity and impartiality. This includes taking all the necessary steps to prevent fraud, bribery and corruption and to report it if you think it's happening.

This digital course is designed to help protect taxpayers' money by raising awareness of what constitutes fraud, bribery and corruption, the impact it can have and how to minimise the risk of it occurring. As well as exploring the motivations for indulging in fraud, bribery and corruption, the course contains real-life examples of such activity and the significant effect it can have.

What does it involve?

After a short introductory animation, this course comprises two online tutorials – one focused on countering fraud and one on bribery and corruption. These are followed by an assessment exercise and a reflective exercise to test your knowledge of what you've just learned and to consider how this could be put to good use within your team.

What's the outcome?

After completing this course, you'll understand the part you can play in preventing, spotting and reporting fraud, bribery and corruption. You'll be able to explain what constitutes fraud, the impact it can have and why it must be prevented. As well as understanding the most common ways in which people try to defraud the public sector, you'll be able to recognise the signs that can indicate fraudulent or corrupt activity.

Learning activities

