

Appendix 2: PA email alert

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 28 May 2011 09:47

To: MMU

Subject: EMBARGOED PA - BARE-FACED CHEEK OF BENEFIT CHEATS

This story is embargoed

HHH INDUSTRY Fraud

Topic [INDUSTRY](#)

 Published 28 May 2011 - 09:38

By Alan Jones, Press Association Industrial Correspondent

(Embargoed to 0001 Sunday May 29)

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Benefit fraudsters have been caught making up "ridiculous" excuses to cover up their crime, according to a list drawn up by the Government today.

People making false claims for benefit told inspectors they didn't realise they were on benefit, must have their identity stolen - or had an identical twin making claims.

Ministers published the list to highlight the £1.6 billion of taxpayer's money lost through fraud in benefits and tax credits each year.

A survey by fraud investigators revealed their top ten worst excuses used by benefit cheats:

:: "We don't live together he just comes each morning to fill up his flask".

:: "I wasn't using the ladders to clean windows, I carried them for therapy for my bad back."

:: "I had no idea my wife was working! I never noticed her leaving the house twice a day in a fluorescent jacket and a Stop Children sign."

:: "My wallet was stolen so someone must have been using my identity, I haven't been working".

:: "I didn't know I was still on benefit."

:: "I didn't declare my savings because I didn't save them, they were given to me."

:: "He lives in a caravan in the drive, we're not together."

:: "He does come here every night and leave in the morning and although he has no other address I don't regard him as living here."

:: "It wasn't me working, it was my identical twin."

:: "I wasn't aware my wife was working because her hours of work coincided with the times I spent in the garden shed."

Lord Freud, Welfare Reform Minister said: "Benefit fraud is no joke, and yet our investigators are routinely dealing with bare-faced cheek and ridiculous excuses for stealing money from the taxpayer."

"Universal Credit will simplify and automate the benefits system. This will make it much easier to catch people who make false claims."

End