

NEWS RELEASE

Benefit cheat failed to declare two jobs

A benefit cheat who failed to tell authorities she had two paid jobs has been given a two-year community order, with six months supervision.

Between March 2007 and November 2009 Kathleen O'Donovan illegally claimed £17,474.39 in incapacity benefit, income support, pension credit and council tax benefit.

The 62-year-old from Dominion Road, Glenfield, was sentenced at Leicester Crown Court on 27th January 2012 after admitting three counts of benefit fraud at an earlier date.

A further hearing was set to decide if any assets or cash she holds are proceeds of crime and whether or not they should be confiscated.

Judge Robert Brown said: "It is a serious matter to cheat the public purse, this offending crosses the custodial threshold."

O'Donovan's previous good character, ongoing health issues, and expressed remorse were all taken into consideration.

The case was brought jointly by Blaby District Council and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).



Councillor John Hudson, finance and efficiency portfolio holder at the Council said:
“In this tough economic climate the public cannot afford to pay for people who are claiming benefits they are not entitled to.

“As a local authority we need to focus on getting benefits to people in real need and punishing people who are cheating the system.

“We will continue to work with other agencies to root out fraudsters who cost hardworking tax payers millions of pounds each year.”

Benefit cheats in Blaby district can be reported online at www.blaby.gov.uk/fraud or by calling 0116 272 7733. All calls are confidential and callers can remain anonymous.

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