



Weighbridge "Fraud by Misrepresentation"

Information had been received on a specific CSA designed "Fraud Help Line" suggesting that a number of staff including a senior company employee were allowing waste material to be tipped in an inert landfill site, contrary to company policy.

After discussing the matter with the client, a strategic investigation plan was devised in three stages and sanctioned by the client:

First Stage To establish if there was any substance in the allegation by carrying out numerous background checks on the named individual (Life style etc). Interrogate internal computer-generated ticket reports and any onsite CCTV.

Second Stage Deploy 2-man surveillance team to covertly monitor the site with regard to all load carrying vehicles entering/leaving site. To be carried out over 4 week-ends to prove/disprove continuity of the offence. Reconcile surveillance logs with company documentation. Report and Recommendations.

Third Stage Carry out internal fact-finding investigation in accordance with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (in case the client wants to prosecute any/all of the offenders) and to formally interview other staff who may be prepared to act as potential witnesses. Final report with recommendations on prevention for the future.

Stage A, showed that staff on a relatively basic wage had an above average life style, designer clothes, lavish holidays and cars that were either on finance or above the pay grade of the individuals concerned.

Stage B was sanctioned by the client and the surveillance team moved in to carryout a CQR (Close Quarter Reconnaissance) of the weighbridge office/weighbridge plate, the internal discharge area and general topography of the site.

It was noted that the CCTV camera which monitors the inside of the tipper/grab lorries had been moved out of position and was no longer facing into the back of the vehicles. This camera could have been moved accidentally or more likely to avoid the CCTV recording non-inert waste going into an inert landfill site.

It was also suspected that weighbridge staff had access to the CCTV system itself, so we were reluctant to move the camera back into position in case it alerted staff on site.

Our technical support team decided to insert a small covert camera inside the actual CCTV camera itself with audio and a 128GB memory card. This camera was positioned to monitor the back of the tipper vehicles.

Over the next 4 week-ends the surveillance team identified and recorded a high number of grab type vehicles entering site, fully loaded and leaving empty but no company documentation could be found to account for any of the transactions.

The internal covert camera was recovered and analysed in detail and clearly showed a number of staff including a senior manager walking over the top of the loads, informing the lorry drivers that they had to reject the loads as it contained asphalt and other non-inert waste or pay a cash sum between £50 to £250 depending on the size and type of material being deposited.

Stage C A formal fact-finding investigation was arranged with one of our senior investigators and a representative from the clients HR department. The site Manager was interviewed first and was friendly and cooperative.

Our investigator explained the reason for the visit and after the usual introductions he agreed that the interview could be recorded so that an accurate account of the interview could be produced if required.

He denied all knowledge or involvement of any dishonesty at this site and stated that he would be surprised if any of his staff were implicated. He was asked if he had ever asked for or received cash payments from drivers for allowing non-inert waste into the inert landfill site to which he replied, "no never".

Video clips with audio were then shown to the individual showing him stood on top of a lorry loaded with asphalt, plastic double glazed windows and other non-inert waste material demanding £250 to "drop it in the corner and I'll get the dozer drive to cover it".

He was then suspended pending further investigations.

A total of 4 persons were dismissed for gross misconduct and the matter was turned over to the local Police .