

**COUNTER FRAUD ACTIVITY 2014/15**

The table below shows the total numbers of fraud referrals received and summarises the outcomes of investigations completed to date. The indicators include the full range of counter fraud work undertaken.

	<b>2014/15 (as at 28/02/14)</b>	<b>2014/15 (Target: Full Yr)</b>	<b>2013/14 (Actual: Full Yr)</b>
% of investigations completed which result in a successful outcome (for example benefit stopped or amended, sanctions, prosecutions, properties recovered, housing allocations blocked, management action taken).	43%	30%	55%
Amount of actual savings (quantifiable savings - e.g. CTS) identified through fraud investigation.	£124,000	£100,000	£97,947
Amount of notional savings (estimated savings - e.g. housing tenancy fraud) identified through fraud investigation.	£577,000	£600,000	£810,000

**Caseload figures for the period are:**

	<b>As at 1/4/14</b>	<b>As at 28/02/15</b>
Awaiting allocation	40	59
Under investigation	184	163

### Summary of counter fraud activity:

Activity	Work completed or in progress
Data matching	<p>Matches from the National Fraud Initiative have been returned. They show 2,200 recommended data matches relating to a number of council teams and services as well as 3,500 matches relating specifically to Single Person Discounts. These matches will be investigated by the team and specific council departments in the next few months.</p> <p>Housing Benefit Matching Service (HBMS) referrals continue to be investigated - the counter fraud team has received 500 HBMS referrals this year. HBMS referrals have resulted in 1 benefit fraud prosecution and 2 sanctions to date in 2014/15.</p>
Fraud detection and investigation	<p>The service continues to promote the use of criminal investigation techniques and standards to robustly respond to any fraud perpetrated against the council. Activity to date includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Housing fraud</b> – working in conjunction with housing officers, 24 properties have been recovered since April. In addition, 13 properties were prevented from being let where the prospective tenants had provided false information in their housing applications. One person has been cautioned for illegal subletting. There are 57 current investigations in this area.</li></ul>

Activity	Work completed or in progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Internal fraud</b> - the team has received 14 referrals for internal frauds between 1<sup>st</sup> April and 28<sup>th</sup> February. 6 cases are still under investigation.</li> <li>• <b>Benefit fraud</b> - 4 people have been prosecuted for benefit fraud offences and a further 13 have received formal sanctions (cautions and administrative penalties). Benefits have been corrected in 14 cases.</li> <li>• <b>Social Care fraud</b> – There are currently 11 ongoing investigations in this area. The fraud team is working closely with a number of departments to identify, detect and deter fraud in this area.</li> <li>• <b>Parking fraud</b> – 23 cases of blue badge misuse have been referred to the team since April. 4 people were cautioned and 6 people have received warnings for disabled badge fraud so far this year.</li> <li>• <b>Council Tax fraud</b> – there are 20 ongoing investigations in this area.</li> </ul>