

COUNTER FRAUD ACTIVITY 2014/15

The table below shows the savings calculated as a result of investigative work. The indicators include the full range of counter fraud work undertaken.

	2014/15 (as at 31/08/14)	2014/15 (Target: Full Yr)	2013/14 (Actual: Full Yr)
To identify actual fraud savings of £100k (quantifiable savings) eg CTS	£59,831	£100,000	£97,947
To identify notional fraud savings of £600k (estimated savings) eg housing tenancy fraud	£216,700	£600,000	£810,000

Caseload figures for the period are:

	As at 1/4/14	As at 31/08/14
Awaiting allocation	40	48
Under investigation	184	175

Summary of counter fraud activity:

Activity	Work completed or in progress
Data matching	<p>The National Fraud Initiative's Council Tax exercise has now been completed. 1,500 matches were identified through the exercise and these resulted in 116 single person discounts being removed. This achieved a saving of £50,000.</p> <p>Preparations are currently underway to provide data from a number of council departments for the forthcoming 2014/15 NFI exercise. Data will be extracted and sent during the first week of October.</p> <p>A proactive data matching exercise looking at errors between the Council Tax and Benefit systems has been completed. The exercise identified 66 cases where single person discounts (SPD) should be removed, 23 where SPD should be queried with the customer as well as 31 cases where the SPD should be reclassified to a different type of exemption. The exercise identified up to £27,000 of council tax discounts that could be removed.</p> <p>Housing Benefit Matching Service (HBMS) referrals continue to be investigated - the counter fraud team has received 267 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 respond to any fraud perpetrated against the council. Activity to date includes the following:</p>

Activity	Work completed or in progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing fraud – working in conjunction with housing officers, 7 properties have been recovered since April. In addition, 9 properties were prevented from being let where the prospective tenants had provided fraudulent information in their housing applications. There are 48 current investigations in this area. • Internal fraud - the team received 7 referrals for internal frauds and completed 8 investigations in the 5 month period to 31 August 2014. • Council Tax fraud – 19 cases of suspected Council Tax fraud have been referred in the period to 31 August. Veritau is also working with the Council Tax department to identify and pursue cases of non-domestic rate fraud against the council. • Benefit fraud - 4 people have been prosecuted for benefit fraud offences and a further 7 have received formal sanctions (cautions and administrative penalties). Benefits have been corrected in a further 7 cases. • Council Tax Support Scheme fraud – Veritau has identified overpayments of £23,000 from the CTS scheme since April. • York Financial Assistance Scheme fraud – 2 referrals have been received since April. Veritau is working with the service to assess levels of fraud within the scheme. • Adult Social Care fraud – The fraud team have received 10 referrals regarding suspected

Activity	Work completed or in progress
	<p>adult social care fraud since April. There are currently 15 ongoing investigations in this area. Veritau has assisted with the recovery of almost £15,000 relating to one case in this area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parking fraud – 12 cases of suspected parking fraud have been referred to the team since April. 5 people have received warnings for the misuse of disabled badges and 1 person has been formally cautioned.