

**COUNTER FRAUD ACTIVITY 2012/13**

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>2012/13 (as at 31/10/12)</b>	<b>2012/13 (Target: Full Yr)</b>	<b>2011/12 (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).	48%	30%	38%
Number of investigations completed	164	320	335

**Caseload figures for the period are:**

	<b>As at 1/4/12</b>	<b>As at 31/10/12</b>
Awaiting allocation	68	22
Under investigation	195	147

### Summary of counter fraud activity:

Activity	Work Completed or in Progress
Data Matching	<p>The 2012/13 National Fraud Initiative data provision has been completed. Data from a number of council departments has been provided to the Audit Commission for the purpose of data matching. Results of these matches will be returned by the Audit Commission in early 2013.</p> <p>Housing Benefit Matching Service (HBMS) referrals continue to be investigated - the counter fraud team has received 960 HBMS referrals in the current tax year. HBMS referrals have resulted in 2 benefit fraud prosecutions and 5 sanctions to date in 2012/13.</p>
Fraud Detection and Investigation	<p>In addition to benefit fraud investigation, the service continues to promote the use of criminal investigation techniques and standards in other areas to encourage a robust response to any fraud perpetrated against the council. Activity to date includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="465 938 2051 1066">• Benefit Fraud - 14 people have been prosecuted for benefit fraud offences and a further 10 have received formal sanctions (cautions and administrative penalties). Benefits have been corrected in a further 50 cases.</li><li data-bbox="465 1114 2051 1326">• Housing Fraud – working in conjunction with housing officers, 15 properties have been recovered in 2012/13. In addition, 2 properties were prevented from being let where the prospective tenants had provided fraudulent information in their housing applications. There are 30 current investigations in this area. City of York Council successfully prosecuted a tenant for subletting this summer. This was only the third such prosecution of this type in the</li></ul>

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Work Completed or in Progress</b>
	<p>country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="472 424 2051 504">• Internal Fraud - the team has received 9 referrals for internal frauds to date. 5 are currently under investigation.</li><li data-bbox="472 555 2051 679">• Social Care Fraud – fraud awareness has been delivered to frontline staff and processes setup for the referral of cases where abuse of the system is suspected. There are currently 7 ongoing investigations in this area.</li><li data-bbox="472 730 2051 855">• Blue Badge Fraud – fraud awareness is currently being undertaken with relevant staff. In October the council prosecuted a member of the public for offences under the Road Traffic Act.</li><li data-bbox="472 906 2051 986">• Council Tax Fraud – there are three ongoing investigations into criminal offences relating to the evasion of council tax.</li></ul>