

## COUNTER FRAUD ACTIVITY 2010/11

The table below shows the total numbers of investigations completed, sanctions applied, fraudulent overpayments identified by the counter fraud team to date. The table also shows performance against agreed targets (as at 31/08/10):

	2010/11 Actual to date	2010/11 Target	2009/10 Actual
Number of Benefit Fraud referrals received (excluding HBMS). <i>The target is designed to promote fraud awareness and encourage people to report suspected fraud.</i>	188	400 referrals to be received	391
% of referrals which are investigated (excluding HBMS). <i>The target is designed to measure the quality of referrals received and the capacity of the counter fraud team to investigate cases.</i>	47%	60% of referrals investigated	51%
% of investigations completed which result in a positive outcome (benefit stopped or amended, sanction or prosecution). <i>The target is designed to measure the effectiveness of counter fraud activity</i>	54%	25% of those cases which are investigated to result in a positive outcome	35%
Value of fraudulent overpayments identified. <i>The target is designed to measure the effectiveness of counter fraud activity</i>	£152k	£350k of overpayments to be identified	£340k
Number of investigations completed	212	N/A	327
Number of sanctions / prosecutions	9	N/A	44

The relevant caseload figures for the period are:

	<b>As at 1/4/10</b>	<b>As at 31/08/10</b>
Awaiting allocation	75	40
Under investigation	157	196

Summary of counter fraud activity:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Work Completed or in Progress</b>
Data Matching	Work is currently ongoing to coordinate data submission for the National Fraud Initiative on 4 October (see the separate report on NFI on this agenda). Other work includes Housing Benefit Matching Service (HBMS) referrals. The counter fraud team has received 349 HBMS referrals to date in 2010/11. The total value of benefit overpayments identified through HBMS matches since 1 April 2010 is in excess of £90k.
Fraud Detection and Investigation	<p>As in previous years, the majority of investigations undertaken relate to benefit fraud. Other activity includes the investigation of housing tenancy related fraud through the Operation Red Card initiative. This has generated significant interest – 59 referrals have been received from the public and from other council staff since the initiative began in April, and around half of these are currently under investigation. Two properties have been recovered from tenants since April 2010.</p> <p>Joint working with other teams remains a priority for the service. So far this year 33% of sanctions and prosecutions are the result of joint working with the DWP and there are a large number of other joint investigations ongoing.</p> <p>The team continues to undertake internal investigations and provide advice to council departments on internal fraud matters. Seven internal referrals have been received so far in 2010/11, and a number of investigations are ongoing.</p>

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Work Completed or in Progress</b>
Fraud Awareness	<p>Ongoing activity includes publication of successful prosecutions through the local press, other internal and external publicity, and feedback on the results of fraud investigations to council officers to improve the quality of referrals and to put in place appropriate controls to prevent and detect fraud.</p> <p>The team is currently configuring an e-learning fraud awareness package which will be rolled out to council officers in the next few months. A series of face to face fraud awareness sessions is also planned.</p>