

## **Annex 6 Investigations, Prosecutions and Sanctions**

1,131 fraud referrals were received in the year (2005/06 – 840), which represents an increase of 35% on the previous year. 704 of these cases were passed for investigation (62%).

	<b>2006/07 Actual</b>	<b>2006/07 Target</b>	<b>2005/06 Actual</b>
Number of fraud investigations undertaken	539	520	509
Prosecutions	22	22	35
Administrative Penalties	15	18	11
Cautions	14	18	19

In addition to the above cases, an investigation into the fraudulent use of a blue badge resulted in the police giving an offender a caution.

The number of prosecutions achieved in 2006/07 was less than for 2005/06. Although this was in part due to the Council adopting a new Prosecution Policy from 1 October 2006, the main difference was caused by a large backlog of prosecution cases at the DWP (for cases arising from joint investigations).

Performance of the fraud team is also measured and reported through three statutory Best Value Performance Indicators. Performance for 2006/07 was as follows;

	<b>2006/07 Actual</b>	<b>2006/07 Target</b>	<b>2005/06 Actual</b>	<b>Comments</b>
BVPI 76b – Number of investigators per 1000 caseload	0.50	0.51	0.51	There were no changes in the Fraud team establishment during 2006/07. The outturn figure was marginally down due to an increase of 2.9% in the total number of claimants.
BVPI 76c – Number of investigations completed per 1000 caseload	44.59	44.00	43.33	The total number of investigations completed during the year was 539, which represented a 5.9% increase on the previous year. This was offset by the 2.9% increase in the total number of claimants.
BVPI 76d – Number of sanctions/prosecutions per 1000 caseload	4.22	4.90	5.53	Although the total number of cautions and administrative penalties achieved in 2006/07 was similar, the number of prosecutions achieved down. As noted above, this was due to a large backlog of cases with the DWP and the consequential decline in the number of joint prosecutions achieved.