

**COUNTER FRAUD ACTIVITY 2012/13**

The table below shows the total numbers of fraud referrals received and summarises the outcomes of investigations completed. While benefit fraud is still a major role for the team, there is a continuing increase in the work the team undertakes in other areas. The indicators have been updated from previous years to reflect this and now include the full range of counter fraud work undertaken.

	<b>2012/13 (as at 01/09/12)</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). <i>The target is designed to measure the effectiveness of counter fraud activity</i>	60%	30%	38%
Number of investigations completed	109	320	335

**Caseload figures for the period are:**

	<b>As at 1/4/12</b>	<b>As at 01/09/12</b>
Awaiting allocation	68	70
Under investigation	195	142

## Summary of counter fraud activity:

Activity	Work Completed or in Progress
Data Matching	<p>Investigation of 2010/11 National Fraud Initiative cases is now complete. A sample of council tax single person discount matches were reviewed by the Council Tax Department. The department concluded that the matches were of poor quality and it was not cost effective to review all the matches from the NFI.</p> <p>The 2012/13 National Fraud Initiative is now underway and preparations are being made to provide council data to the Audit Commission next month.</p> <p>Housing Benefit Matching Service (HBMS) referrals continue to be investigated - the counter fraud team has received 719 HBMS referrals 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 1070 2020 1193">• Benefit Fraud - 8 people have been prosecuted for benefit fraud offences and a further 6 have received formal sanctions (cautions and administrative penalties). Benefits have been corrected in a further 33 cases.</li><li data-bbox="465 1246 2020 1326">• Housing Fraud – working in conjunction with housing officers, 8 houses have been recovered in 2012/13. One tenant was subsequently prosecuted for illegally subletting a</li></ul>

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Work Completed or in Progress</b>
	<p>council property. This was only the third such prosecution in the country and the only one outside of London. In addition, 2 properties were prevented from being let where the prospective tenants had provided fraudulent information in their housing applications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="472 507 1749 547">• Internal Fraud - the team has investigated 5 internal frauds during the year.</li><li data-bbox="472 596 2018 719">• 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 4 ongoing investigations in this area.</li></ul>