

**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 28/02/13)</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).	44%	30%	38%
Number of investigations completed	273	320	335

**Caseload figures for the period are:**

	<b>As at 1/4/12</b>	<b>As at 28/02/13</b>
Awaiting allocation	68	24
Under investigation	195	131

### Summary of counter fraud activity:

Activity	Work Completed or in Progress
Data Matching	<p>A total of 9,600 data matches have been received from the Audit Commission as part of the National Fraud Initiative. 2,000 of these matches have been categorised as recommended matches. Work has begun to investigate these matches.</p> <p>Housing Benefit Matching Service (HBMS) referrals continue to be investigated - the counter fraud team has received 1,831 HBMS referrals this year. HBMS referrals have resulted in 3 benefit fraud prosecutions and 6 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 1062">• Benefit Fraud - 18 people have been prosecuted for benefit fraud offences and a further 13 have received formal sanctions (cautions and administrative penalties). Benefits have been corrected in a further 61 cases.</li><li data-bbox="465 1114 2051 1326">• Housing Fraud – working in conjunction with housing officers, 21 properties have been recovered in 2012/13. Over the past year one in every three investigations resulted in the return of a property. In addition, 2 properties were prevented from being let where the prospective tenants had provided fraudulent information in their housing applications. There are 40 current investigations in this area. City of York Council successfully prosecuted a</li></ul>

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Work Completed or in Progress</b>
	<p>tenant for subletting last summer. This was only the third such prosecution of this type in the country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal Fraud - the team has received 14 referrals for internal frauds in 12/13. 7 are currently under investigation.</li> <li>• 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 11 ongoing investigations in this area.</li> <li>• Blue Badge Fraud – fraud awareness has been undertaken with relevant staff. In October the council prosecuted a member of the public for offences under the Road Traffic Act.</li> <li>• Council Tax Fraud – there are three ongoing investigations into criminal offences relating to the evasion of council tax.</li> </ul>