

**COUNTER FRAUD ACTIVITY 2013/14**

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>2013/14 (as at 28/02/14)</b>	<b>2013/14 (Target: Full Yr)</b>	<b>2012/13 (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).	59%	30%	47%
Number of investigations completed	209	320	262

**Caseload figures for the period are:**

	<b>As at 1/4/13</b>	<b>As at 28/02/14</b>
Awaiting allocation	22	56
Under investigation	147	161

## Summary of counter fraud activity:

Activity	Work completed or in progress
Data matching	<p>Matches from the National Fraud Initiative's Council Tax exercise have been returned. They show 1,461 matches relating to suspected false single person discount awards. Information was also provided on a further 151 cases where children were turning 18.</p> <p>A proactive data matching exercise identifying fraud solely within the Council Tax Support scheme is currently underway. 13 cases of suspected fraud have been identified and are currently under investigation.</p> <p>Housing Benefit Matching Service (HBMS) referrals continue to be investigated - the counter fraud team has received 658 HBMS referrals this year. HBMS referrals have resulted in 2 benefit fraud prosecutions and 4 sanctions to date in 2013/14.</p>
Fraud detection and investigation	<p>The service continues to promote the use of criminal investigation techniques and standards to robustly respond to any fraud perpetrated against the council. Activity to date includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Housing fraud</b> – working in conjunction with housing officers, 34 properties have been recovered since April. In addition, 14 properties were prevented from being let where the prospective tenants had provided false information in their housing applications (comparative figures for last year were 21 properties recovered and 2 applications blocked). Two people have been cautioned for falsely applying for housing. There are 42 current investigations in</li> </ul>

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Work completed or in progress</b>
	<p>this area. In September the team launched a regional anti-housing fraud drive joining up with four housing associations and four other local authorities in North Yorkshire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Internal fraud</b> - the team has received 15 referrals for internal frauds between 1<sup>st</sup> April and 28<sup>th</sup> February. Four cases are still under investigation.</li> <li>• <b>Benefit fraud</b> - 11 people have been prosecuted for benefit fraud offences and a further nine have received formal sanctions (cautions and administrative penalties). Benefits have been corrected in a further 29 cases.</li> <li>• <b>Social Care fraud</b> – There are currently 13 ongoing investigations in this area. The fraud team is working closely with a number of departments to identify, detect and deter fraud in this area.</li> <li>• <b>Parking fraud</b> – Twelve cases of blue badge misuse have been referred to the team since April (increased from 5 last year). One person has been prosecuted, one person was cautioned and four people have received warnings for disabled badge fraud so far this year.</li> <li>• <b>Council Tax fraud</b> – there are 11 ongoing investigations in this area.</li> </ul>