



Information Governance

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Date: 16 March 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)
Request ID: FOI316179236

Thank you for your request for information relating to Grant fraud 2020/21.

Your request and our responses are shown below:

Please could you breakdown the following information from 1 March 2020 to 28 February 2021.

1. How many overpayments did your council identify for claims made as part of Covid-related government grant schemes it administered (for example, but not limited to: small business rates grant scheme; retail, hospital and leisure grant scheme) over the stated period?

a. If such overpayments did occur, please could you tell me the total frequency of/ reasons for /such overpayment (for example, but not limited to: 'payment error', 'ineligible claim', 'fraudulent claim').

i. For each of these overpayments please can you state: the cost to the council of the overpayment amount (in £); how much of its total has been recovered (in £) as of the current date, and how much money (in £) is outstanding as of the current date.

So, for instance, taking the 'fraudulent claim' category as an example, your council may

have made overpayments worth £300,000 for 30 fraudulent claims, recovered £25,000 for 2 of them as of the current date, meaning there is £275,000 outstanding for 28.

b. In relation to the identified fraudulent claims, please can you break this information down in terms of what kind of fraud occurred (for example, but not limited to: 'organised fraud').

We can confirm that we hold this information and it is accessible to you via the following link:-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XBK3PlwPZ4k>

<https://edemocracy.coventry.gov.uk/documents/s49270/Annual%20Fraud%20and%20Error%20Report%20.pdf>

We therefore do not have to provide the information as per Section 21 of the FOIA.

Should you wish to make any further requests for information, you may find what you are looking for is already published on the [Council's web site](#) and in particular its FOI/EIR [Disclosure log](#), [Council's Publication Scheme](#), [Open Data](#) and [Facts about Coventry](#).

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: infogov@coventry.gov.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

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