



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)
Request ID: FOI669013004**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Fraud Statistical Data.

You have requested the following information:

This is a request for the statistical breakdown of fraud data for the categories below for the financial year 2023/24 (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024).

DEFINITIONS

- **For the purposes of this questionnaire, fraud is defined as 'a dishonest false representation', including failure to declare information or abuse of position that is carried out to make gain, cause loss or expose another to the risk of loss.**
- **Number of cases investigated; Please include details about the overall number of cases investigated; this can include cases where fraud was not ultimately proven.**
- **Cases identified to be fraudulent; Please only include detected or prevented instances of fraud and corruption. These are where, following an investigation, action has taken place or a payment has been prevented and on the balance of probabilities fraud or corruption has occurred. 'Balance of probability' is the standard of proof required in civil and disciplinary matters and means that it is more likely than not that the fraud or corruption has occurred for the financial amounts and duration indicated, based on the information available at the time. Action taking place could be internal or external, i.e. prosecution.**
- **Number of prosecutions; This should include the number of cases which have been successfully prosecuted through either magistrates or crown court.**

1) Total number of full-time equivalent staff tasked with investigating fraud:

0.25.

2) The number of Financial Investigators (National Crime Agency Qualified):

None.

3) Total amount spent (£) on any external investigators, contractors or consultants to investigate fraud not identified above:

0.

4) COUNCIL TAX

Number of cases investigated:

We are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act that we do not hold this information. This information is not recorded.

Number of investigations identified as fraudulent:

We are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act that we do not hold this information. This information is not recorded.

Value of Council Tax Reduction overpayments identified:

We are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act that we do not hold this information. This information is not recorded.

Value of Single Person Discounts identified as fraud:

We are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act that we do not hold this information. This information is not recorded.

Amount of Council Tax Penalties issued:

£0

Number of prosecutions:

None

Number of administration penalties:

£0

5) SOCIAL HOUSING FRAUD

Total number of properties in council housing stock:

Number of cases investigated:

Number of investigations identified as fraudulent:

Number of council properties recovered due to fraud:

Amount of cancelled housing applications due to fraud:

Number of Right to Buy applications cancelled due to fraud:

Value of Right to Buy claims cancelled due to fraud:

Number of prosecutions:

Number of unlawful profit orders obtained:

Value of unlawful profit orders:

For Section 5, we are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act that we do not hold this

information. Coventry City Council does not own any housing stock as this was transferred to Citizen Housing (formerly Whitefriars) in September 2000 through Large Scale Voluntary Transfer.

This transfer also involved movement of responsibility for management of the housing stock, including repairs and maintenance and the setting and collection of rents along with any right-to-buy activities.

For clarity, the Council relinquished responsibility regarding these matters in their entirety as part of the transfer. To advise and assist you further, information about Citizen Housing and their services can be found on the web site at:

<https://www.citizenhousing.org.uk/>

6) PROCUREMENT FRAUD

Number of cases investigated:

Six.

Number of investigations identified as fraudulent:

Four.

Value of fraudulent overpayments identified:

We are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act that we do not hold this information. This information is not recorded.

Number of prosecutions:

Nil.

7) INTERNAL / CORPORATE FRAUD

Number of cases investigated:

Eight.

Number of investigations identified as fraudulent / theft:

Two.

Value of fraudulent overpayments / theft identified:

We are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act that we do not hold this information. This information is not recorded.

Number of prosecutions:

Nil.

Number of fraud cases leading to disciplinary hearing:

Nil.

Number of dismissals due to disciplinary proceedings:

Nil.

8) DISABLE BADGE / BLUE BADGE FRAUD –

Number of cases investigated:

Number of investigations identified as fraudulent:

Amount of badges cancelled:

Number of prosecutions:

Number of warning letters issued:

Section 8 is not applicable. We do not instruct any prosecutions for Blue Badge however we do issue standard letters when a Blue Badge is reported as being misused (records for the number of letters is not held).

9) ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND DIRECT PAYMENTS

Number of cases investigated:

Three.

Number of investigations identified as fraudulent:

Nil.

Value of fraudulent overpayments identified:

Nil.

Number of prosecutions:

Nil.

10) INSURANCE FRAUD –

Number of cases investigated:

Number of investigations identified as fraudulent:

Value of fraudulent claims prevented:

Value of fraudulent overpayments :

Number of prosecutions:

For Section 10, we are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act that we do not hold this information. This information is not recorded in our systems however to assist, we are not aware of any cases.

11) OTHER FRAUDS

Number of cases investigated:

Nine.

Number of investigations identified as fraudulent:

Seven.

Value of fraud identified:

We are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act that we do not hold this information. This information is not recorded.

Number of prosecutions:

Nil.

Please provide an overview of the types of fraud uncovered / investigation conducted:

It is related to two categories:

- fraudulent requests to change employee bank details
- fraudulent requests for support under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.

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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

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email icocasework@ico.org.uk.

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

Yours faithfully

Information Governance