

**Council wide fraud and irregularity activity relating to 2018/19 including Internal Audit activity**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Gloucester City Council Response</b>
Number of occasions they use powers under the Prevention of Social Housing Fraud (Power to Require Information) (England) Regulations 2014, or similar powers.	N/A
Total number (absolute and full time equivalent) of employees undertaking investigations and prosecutions of fraud.	1.6 FTE fraud investigators and access to the Gloucestershire Counter Fraud Hub (CFU) as part of the Internal Audit shared service arrangement with Gloucestershire County Council and Stroud District Council i.e. Audit Risk Assurance (ARA).
Total number (absolute and full time equivalent) of professionally accredited counter fraud specialists.	One FTE employed by the City Council with 1.6 FTE fraud investigators employed by ARA and access to the Gloucestershire CFU as part of the Internal Audit shared service arrangement.
Total amount spent by the authority on the investigation and prosecution of fraud / <u>irregularity</u> ..	£32,535 (includes an element of costs for the services of ARA and the Gloucestershire CFU as part of the Internal Audit, ARA shared service arrangement. Excludes Gloucester City Council staff costs).
Total number of fraud cases investigated.	0

In addition to the above, it is recommended that local authorities should go further than the minimum publication requirements set out above (as detailed for Gloucester City Council) in the table below.

<b>Question</b>	<b>Gloucester City Council Response</b>
Total number of cases of irregularity investigated.	109 Housing Benefit (HB) cases referred to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) for their investigation.  130 HB cases recalculated due to HB Matching Service (HBMS).

	<p>276 HB cases recalculated due to Real Time Information/ Validate Earnings and Pensions Alerts Service (RTI/VEP).</p> <p>78 cases received from the DWP as a direct result of their investigations.</p> <p>1 case of theft of cash.</p>
Total number of occasions on which a) fraud and b) irregularity was identified.	<p>a) 0</p> <p>b) 1 + As a local authority there is an obligation to refer our HB fraud allegations to DWP for their consideration as to whether an investigation should take place. The City Council has no control over which cases the DWP choose to (or choose not to, investigate).</p>
Total monetary value of a) the fraud and b) the irregularity that was detected.	<p>a) 0</p> <p>b) £3,000 + Referred to DWP £334,657.71 Housing Benefit overpayments (overpayments referred to DWP for their consideration of investigation must all be over £2K to meet the referral threshold).</p> <p>Received from DWP £31,949.99 Housing Benefit overpayments.</p> <p>HBMS £213,689.76 of HB overpayments.</p> <p>(RTI/VEP) - £130,657.66 of HB overpayments.</p>
Total monetary value of a) the fraud and b) the irregularity that was recovered	<p>a) 0</p> <p>b) Recovery will be sought from all those who have been overpaid Housing Benefit as a result of fraud / irregularity.</p>

Full details about the code and its requirements can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-government-transparency-code-2015>