

## Freedom of Information Act 2000 – fraud reports

Your request for information has now been considered and the Council's response to your questions is shown below.

**You asked:**

**Could you please list the number of occasions a member of the public has reported to you that they believed a person (or persons) has been falsely claiming benefits or lying about their living circumstances to authorities between April 1, 2012 and April 1, 2014?**

**In relation to Housing and Council Tax Benefit fraud investigations only for the years 2012/2013 & 2014/2015:**

	2012/13	2013/14
Total fraud referrals received via the Fraud Hotline	198	235

**Could you please separate the data by tax year (so April 1, 2012 to April 1, 2013 and April 1, 2013 to April 1, 2014).**

[Please see response to question 1](#)

**Could you specify what type of fraud the caller/person reporting the case suspected had been committed (ie. living with a partner but not informing authorities, sub-letting, lying about circumstances, council tax fraud etc).**

	2012/13	2013/14
Contrived Tenancy	3	5
Fraud Type Not Known	1	17
Identity Fraud	3	-
Living Together	53	61
Non-Occupation	35	35
Sub Letting	1	2
Undeclared Capital	3	13
Undeclared Change Of Circumstances	5	3
Undeclared Earnings	30	37
Undeclared Income	31	27
Undeclared Non-Dependents	30	31
Undeclared Private Pension	-	2
Undeclared Property	3	2

**Could you also explain what the outcome of each investigation was (ie. whether the person was prosecuted for fraud, cautioned, had their benefits stopped or there was no further action).**

	2012/13	2013/14
Closed Administrative Penalty Accepted	1	-
Closed Allegation Not Proven	10	-
Closed Allegation Proven Overpayment	1	1
Closed Due To Delays In Investigating	4	3
Closed Not Worth Pursuing	9	13
Closed Overload (Due To Resources)	2	3
Closed Overload (No Housing Benefit Interest)	-	7
Closed Prosecution	-	-
Closed Prosecution Withdrawn	1	-
Closed Screened Out	167	200
File With Prosecuting Authorities	1	-
Identified For Closure At 121	-	1
Live In Progress	2	7

**Where people's benefits were stopped could you detail how much money was saved by that action (where possible).**

The Council does not hold this information. Therefore this letter acts as a refusal notice under section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because, in accordance with section 1.1 of the Act, this information is not held by Leicester City Council.

**And finally could you detail how much the council has identified in benefits overpayments over each of the two financial years.**

	2012/13	2013/14
Total Overpayments	£5,068,151.53	£6,230,939.37

The legislation allows you to use the information supplied for your own personal use, or for journalistic purposes. If the information is a dataset (which does not relate to the environment), you may also use the information for commercial re-use under an [Open Government Licence](#).

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please write to:

**Information Governance Manager  
Information and Support  
Leicester City Council  
Bosworth House  
9 – 15 Princess Road West  
LEICESTER LE1 6TH  
e-mail: [info.requests@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:info.requests@leicester.gov.uk)**

Your request for internal review should be submitted to the above address within 40 (forty) working days of receipt by you of this response. Any such request received after this time will only be considered at the Council's absolute discretion.

You may also seek independent advice from the Information Commissioner at:

**Information Commissioner's Office**  
**Wycliffe House**  
**Water Lane**  
**Wilmslow SK9 5AF**  
**Telephone: 01625 545 700**  
[www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk)

Please be aware that the Information Commissioner does not normally consider requests until the internal appeals process of the Council has been exhausted. You are therefore advised to appeal to the Information Governance Manager before contacting the Commissioner.