

35902

Do you have a fraud investigation department/team?

Our Customer Fraud & Visiting Team sits separate to Internal Audit and is within our Customer Team. We investigate external/customer fraud that is out with the remit of central government bodies such as the DWP.

Our Internal Audit Team considers whether appropriate controls have been established across the Council to support prevention and detection of potentially internal and external fraudulent activities by Council employees as part of their Governance, Risk, and Best Value Committee approved Internal Audit annual plan.

If you don't have a fraud team, who investigates reported case of fraud?

N/A

How many fraud investigators are there in your team?

1x F/T Fraud officer and 2x F/T Compliance Officers.

Can you please list the top 4 most common types of fraud you investigate?

- Council Tax Discounts and Exemptions; incorrectly applied due to the customer providing false information or failing to report a change in circumstance
- Recovered Tenancies; non residency and illegal sublets of Council Homes
- Council Tax Reduction; payments in error occur when a claimant fails to provide the correct information when applying for the scheme or fails to report a change in circumstance
- Scottish Welfare Fund Payments; savings are identified where items have been claimed under the scheme but which are not actually required

Do you investigate any Covid related fraud cases – e.g. business grant, business support, business rates relief or business load fraud cases?

Fraudulent Business Grant applications were monitored jointly as part of a Scotland wide strategy led by the appropriate national body. Data was shared across all 32 Local Authorities to ensure a consistent and coordinated approach. This data was also shared with Police Scotland as part of their work to tackle serious and organised crime.

Do you release or publish any information about the number of cases you investigate per annum, the value of fraud and their outcomes?

Yes, the Annual Fraud Prevention and Detection Report is discussed during the Finance and Resources Committee; link to the latest report below – item 8.1

<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=140&MId=5928&Ver=4>

How many fraud cases were investigated in 2020 and in 2021?

	2019/20	2020/21
No. allegations reported and reviewed	508	617

Do you use an electronic case management system to record and manage your fraud cases? If so, which case management system do you use?

No

Do you use data matching to proactively identify potential fraud cases? Which product or service do you use?

The Council participates in Audit Scotland's NFI exercise. This is a comprehensive data matching exercise that operates over a two-year rolling period and compares information held by public bodies, the latest exercise commenced in January 2021.

Do you investigate fraud on behalf of other organisations? Can you please state who?

N/A