

Fraud Trends 2011 to 31st January 2016

Referrals

Referral source	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Members of public	54	32	65	80	47
Data matching	114	66	52	47	228
<u>Official source</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>35</u>	52
Total referrals	227	163	165	146	327

The increase in data matching referrals during 2015/16 is due to the way in which HBMS matches are now recorded. All matches are now managed through the fraud management computer system and therefore each is recorded as a referral. This also increases the number of fraud referrals that are recorded as not taken up.

The number of referrals from official sources is increasing, demonstrating the success of the shared team in areas such as raising fraud awareness and joint working with the DWP. The reduction in the number of data matching referrals from 2012/13 was a general trend following the automation of information regarding benefits and Tax Credits between local authorities and DWP. This trend also decreased the number of cases of lower level fraud where a caution or administrative penalty would quite often have previously been offered.

Closure by fraud type	2014/15	2015/16
undeclared income	10	5
working and drawing	29	51
contrived tenancy		1
employer fraud		
landlord fraud		
living together	5	4
non-commercial tenancy		
non-dependants	2	9
non-residency	1	10
other	1	
property owner		
student award	4	
<u>undeclared capital</u>		2
Total closures	52	82

Closure by referral source	2014/15	2015/16
Members of public	2	4
Data matching	34	71
<u>Official source</u>	16	7
Total referrals	52	82

Outcomes Bromsgrove	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Administrative Penalty	7	6	1	1	2
Caution	45	32	21	5	13
Prosecution	3	9	10	10	5
No sanction	Not available	26	17	15	62
Total	Not available	73	49	31	82

The increase in the number of cases closed without sanction during 2015/16 is also mainly due to the way in which data matching is now recorded. Although this work has always been carried out within the investigation team, the amount of work involved was not captured.