

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

Question	Stroud District Council Response
Number of occasions they use powers under the Prevention of Social Housing Fraud (Power to Require Information) (England) Regulations 2014, or similar powers.	3
Total number (absolute and full time equivalent) of employees undertaking investigations and prosecutions of fraud.	The Council has access to 1.6 FTE fraud investigators as part of the Internal Audit shared service arrangement with Gloucestershire County Council and Gloucester City Council (ARA – Audit, Risk, Assurance), together with access to the CFU via ARA.
Total number (absolute and full time equivalent) of professionally accredited counter fraud specialists.	The Council has access to 1.6 FTE fraud investigators as part of the Internal Audit shared service arrangement with Gloucestershire County Council and Gloucester City Council (ARA) together with access to the CFU via ARA.
Total amount spent by the authority on the investigation and prosecution of fraud.	Approximately £12,415 in staff time from ARA/CFU. Staff employed by SDC unknown.
Total number of fraud cases investigated by ARA and the CFU. (<i>all cases are initially investigated as fraud</i>).	3 (plus 2 referred to DWP outcomes unknown).

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 Stroud District Council) in the table below.

Question	Stroud District Council Response
Total number of cases of irregularity investigated. (This is not in addition to the fraud cases investigated)	30
Total number of occasions on which a) fraud and b) irregularity was identified.	(a) 3 (b) 30 + 2 referred to DWP, outcomes unknown.
Total monetary value of a) the fraud and b) the irregularity that was detected.	(a) Estimated £130,000 (RTB loss prevention) £5,081.20 from CTRS (b) £7,129.21 (Excludes ongoing cases where value is currently not known)
Total monetary value of a) the fraud and b) the irregularity that was recovered	(a) Estimated £130,000 (includes value of discount saved from preventing a property being sold under the RTB scheme) £5,081.20 recovered in respect of CTRS. (b) £639 (Excludes ongoing cases where value is currently not known. 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.)

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

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