

Transparency – Fraud return – Cambridgeshire County Council

Period: 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021

N.B. At 1st April 2020, the responsibility for investigations of whistleblowing and fraud at Cambridgeshire County Council was delegated to the LGSS Counter Fraud team as part of the Council's shared services arrangements. The service returned to the in-house Internal Audit team at Cambridgeshire County Council from the 1st January 2021.

On return to the in-house team, it was identified that the annual fraud transparency returns for Cambridgeshire County Council have not been completed since 2016/17. Cambridgeshire's Internal Audit team requested the relevant data from the former LGSS Counter Fraud team, to enable completion of the outstanding returns. Although full data for the outstanding time period has not yet been provided, the former LGSS Counter Fraud team provided an initial response for the 2020/21 year which has enabled CCC's Internal Audit team to compile this return, in conjunction with their own records. For clarity, distinction has been made between the responses from both teams.

1. Mandatory information

	Requested Information	Response
1	Number of occasions used powers under the Prevention of Social Housing Fraud (Power to Require Information) (England) Regulations 201432, or similar powers ³³	None
2	Total number (absolute and full time equivalent) of employees undertaking investigations and prosecutions of fraud	<p>CCC Internal Audit: No officers are exclusively dedicated to undertaking investigations of fraud. When required, fraud investigation work is delegated within the CCC Internal Audit team, currently 10 FTE.</p> <p>LGSS Counter Fraud: Part of a shared service which has 3.8FTE</p>
3	Total number (absolute and full time equivalent) of professionally accredited counter fraud specialists	CCC Internal Audit: The CCC Internal Audit service does not have any officers with a counter fraud accreditation but all fraud investigation work is managed by staff who are qualified CCAB accountants with experience of fraud investigation.

	Requested Information	Response
		LGSS Counter Fraud: Part of a shared service which has 3.8FTE
4	Total amount spent by the authority on the investigation and prosecution of fraud	No response received from LGSS Counter Fraud. As a total of c.58.8 days were recorded as having been spent on fraud investigations for CCC in 2020/21 (based on the shared time coding system in use by LGSS Counter Fraud and the CCC team), the Cambridgeshire Internal Audit service has estimated the total cost across both services as £20,585.
5	Total number of fraud cases investigated	CCC Internal Audit: 4
		LGSS Counter Fraud: 18

2. Additional recommended information

	Requested Information	Response
1	Total number of cases of irregularity investigated	CCC Internal Audit: 0
		LGSS Counter Fraud: 0
2a	Total number of occasions on which fraud was identified	CCC Internal Audit: 1
		LGSS Counter Fraud: 1 conviction. Conviction in a criminal court being the standard recognised for identified fraud.
b	Total number of occasions on which irregularity was identified	CCC Internal Audit: 1
		LGSS Counter Fraud: 0

	Requested Information	Response
3a	Total monetary value of the fraud that was detected,	CCC Internal Audit: £4,050
		LGSS Counter Fraud: Not known to what extent the loss was in monetary terms as Blue badge misuse.
b	Total monetary value of the irregularity that was detected	CCC Internal Audit: £65,785
		LGSS Counter Fraud: Not known to what extent of loss.
4a	Total monetary value of the fraud that was recovered	CCC Internal Audit: £0
		LGSS Counter Fraud: Not known
b	Total monetary value of the irregularity that was recovered	CCC Internal Audit: £0
		LGSS Counter Fraud: Not known

Transparency – Fraud

Data quality

This data is accurate as of its date of publication:

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Contact

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