

Transparency Code 2014/15 – Fraud – Bracknell Forest Council

The Transparency Code requires the annual publication of data relating to the Council's counter fraud work.

	Mandatory Publication Level	01 April 2014 – 31 March 2015	Notes – additional information
1	Number of occasions the Council used powers under the Prevention of Social Housing Fraud Regulations (Powers to Require Information) (England) Regulations 2014, or similar powers	0	The Council does not hold housing stock and did not exercise powers under the Prevention of Social Housing Fraud Regulations (Powers to Require Information) (England) Regulations 2014, or similar powers during 2014/15
2	Total number (absolute and full time equivalent) of employees undertaking investigations and prosecutions of fraud	<p><u>1 April – 30 November 2014</u> 3 absolute</p> <p><u>1 April – 30 November 2014</u> 2.25 full time equivalents</p> <p><u>1 December 2014 to 31st March 2015</u> 0.25 absolute</p> <p><u>1 December 2014 to 31st March 2015</u> 0.25 full time equivalent</p>	Until 30 November 2014 the Council had 2 full time employees undertaking housing benefit investigations. The benefit investigators transferred to the Single Fraud Investigation Service at the Department of Work and Pensions on 1st December 2014. Prosecution of cases was supported by a solicitor spending approximately 0.25 of their time on fraud cases.
3	Total number (absolute and full time equivalent) of professionally accredited counter fraud specialists	<p><u>1 April – 30 November 2014</u> 3 absolute</p> <p><u>1 April – 30 November 2014</u> 3 full time equivalents</p>	One member of the Internal Audit section has a CIPFA Fraud Investigation qualification in addition to the two professionally accredited counter fraud specialists investigating housing benefit fraud up to 30 November 2014.

		<u>1 December 2014 to 31st March 2015</u> 1 absolute <u>1 December 2014 to 31st March 2015</u> 1 full time equivalent	
4	Total amount spent by the Council on the investigation and prosecution of fraud	£65k	This includes salary costs for investigators and legal support disclosed under section 2 plus external consultancy costs for counter fraud work on Council Tax Single Person Discount.
5	Total number of fraud cases investigated	904	This is the number of potential fraud cases investigated and includes referrals to the benefit fraud team for investigation and investigations into entitlement to Council Tax Single Person Discount.