

**Council wide fraud and irregularity activity relating to 2019/2020 including Internal Audit activity**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Stroud District Council Response</b>
Number of occasions they use powers under the Prevention of Social Housing Fraud (Power to Require Information) (England) Regulations 2014, or similar powers.	11
Total number (absolute and full time equivalent) of employees undertaking investigations and prosecutions of fraud.	The Council has access to 2.6 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 Counter Fraud Unit (CFU).
Total number (absolute and full time equivalent) of professionally accredited counter fraud specialists.	The Council has access to 2.6 FTE fraud investigators as part of the Internal Audit shared service arrangement as above together with access to the CFU staff who use accredited counter fraud specialists.
Total amount spent by the authority on the investigation and prosecution of fraud.	Approximately £18,951 in staff time from ARA/CFU. This figure excludes costs for staff employed by SDC.
Total number of fraud cases investigated.	24

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.	25
Total number of occasions on which a) fraud and b) irregularity was identified.	(a) 3 (b) 88
Total monetary value of a) the fraud and b) the irregularity that was detected.	(a) £10,586 plus 2 Right to Buy (RTB) applications withdrawn as a result of investigation. (b) £9,451 (excludes ongoing cases where value is currently not known). In addition 91 cases of single person discount irregularities uncovered through NFI were identified where penalties were recommended at £70 per case.
Total monetary value of a) the fraud and b) the irregularity that was recovered	(a) Estimated £130,000 (being the value of discount saved from preventing two properties being sold under the RTB scheme). (b) Not evaluated although SPD and CTRS irregularities is estimated would increase council tax liability by approximately £57k.  Excludes ongoing cases where value is currently not known.

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	As a local authority there is an obligation to refer our Housing Benefit 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>