

External Investigation Outcomes

Table 1 – Benefits & Council Tax Reductions / Discounts - Prosecutions completed in the 4th Quarter 2015/16

Prosecutions					
Case ref.	Fraud Type	Fraudulent overpayment	Period of overpayment or Evasion of liability	Court and sentence	Comment
13089	Single Person Discount	£2,473	21/08/10 – 31/03/14	<p>Maidstone Crown Court</p> <p>Defendant 1 Pleaded guilty to: 1 x S.1 Fraud Act offence 1 x Conspiracy to Defraud</p> <p>Defendant 2 3 x S.1 Fraud Act offences 1 x Conspiracy to Defraud</p> <p>Both defendants Sentenced to: 6 months imprisonment suspended for 18 months Defendant 2 also given a Community Punishment Order with a requirement to undertake 100hrs unpaid work.</p>	
14091 / 1032607	CofC	£8,411 (HB) £979 (CTR)	03/06/13 – 02/11/14 03/06/13 – 08/11/14	<p>Medway Magistrates</p> <p>Pleaded guilty to: 2 x failing to report a change</p>	<p>Case investigated upon receipt of Real Time Information (RTI) payroll data.</p> <p>Subject admitted at interview that changes in income had not been reported.</p>

Prosecutions					
Case ref.	Fraud Type	Fraudulent overpayment	Period of overpayment or Evasion of liability	Court and sentence	Comment
13488 / 1040771	CAP	£2,536 (HB) £131 (CTB) £392 (CTR) £10,056 (DWP)	23/04/12 – 31/01/13 01/02/13 – 31/03/13 01/04/13 – 17/11/13 23/04/12 – 12/11/13	Medway Magistrates Pleaded guilty to: 1 x Medway Offence 2 x DWP offences Sentence details not provided	Department for Work and Pensions led prosecution, prosecuted by Crown Prosecution Service. Subject repaid the overpayment in full following conviction
14068 / 1067242	WC	£8,248 (HB) £344 (CTB) £768 (CTR) £11,087 (DWP)	22/10/12 – 08/02/15 22/10/12 – 31/03/13 01/04/13 – 19/10/14 08/12/11 – 09/02/15	Medway Magistrates Pleaded guilty to: 1 x Medway offence 2 x DWP offences 6 months curfew 6pm to 6am, £85 costs and £60 compensation	Department for Work and Pensions led prosecution, prosecuted by Crown Prosecution Service.
14169 / 1032769	WC	£10,206 (HB) £907 (CTB) £453 (CTR)	21/06/10 – 23/11/14 21/06/10 – 31/03/13 01/04/13 – 31/03/15	Medway Magistrates 2 x Medway offences 4 months curfew 8pm to 6am, £85 costs, £60 victim surcharge	
Totals		£29,401 (HB) £1,382 (CTB) £2,592 (CTR) £2,473 (SPD) £35,848			

Table 2 – Benefits & Council Tax Reductions / Discounts – Cautions issued in the 4th Quarter 2015/16

Cautions					
Case ref.	Fraud Type	Fraudulent overpayment	Period of overpayment or Evasion of liability	Date Caution accepted	Comment
14177 / 1045703	Inc.	£21,015 (HB) £3,554 (CTB) £893 (CTR)	26/02/96 – 28/12/14 27/02/96 – 31/03/13 01/04/13 – 31/03/15	18/01/16	The Caution was issued in relation to a failure to declare both earned income and an occupational pension. The customer was issued with a caution due to severe health issues as it was felt this met public interest. Housing Benefit overpayment is being recovered from on-going benefit at the rate of £18.50pw.
14186 / 1060205	CofC	£5,037 (HB)	01/04/13 – 04/01/15	27/01/16	In applying the “Public Interest Test” a Caution was authorized as an alternative to prosecution due to the personal circumstances of the claimant. Housing Benefit overpayment is being recovered from on-going benefit at the rate of £18.50pw.
14099 / 1038334	CofC	£5,510 (HB) £1,437 (CTR)	17/12/12 – 18/01/15 15/04/13 – 19/10/14	18/01/16	In applying the “Public Interest Test” a Caution was authorized as an alternative to prosecution due to the personal circumstances of the claimant. Only £1,285 considered for the criminal offence. The claimant is no longer entitled to Housing Benefit and has set up a repayment plan of £50 per month.
14274 / 89580	CofC	£5,967 (HB)	02/04/12 – 07/12/14	09/02/16	In applying the “Public Interest Test” a Caution was authorized as an alternative to prosecution due to the personal circumstances of the claimant. Housing Benefit overpayment is being recovered from on-going benefit at the rate of £18.50pw.
14173 / 1034632	CofC	£12,720 (HB)	28/11/11 - 09/11/14	16/03/16	Claimant was taken to court for the offences but barristers determined that a caution was the most efficient means of disposal. A conviction

		£1,297 (CTB)	28/11/11 – 31/03/13		would lead to loss of employment for the claimant and then lead to further dependence upon the benefits system. The claimant paid all court costs and is repaying the overpayment.
		£1,035 (CTR)	01/04/13 – 23/11/14		
Totals		£50,249 (HB) £4,851 (CTB) £3,365 (CTR)			
		£58,465			

Table 3 – Benefits & Council Tax Reductions / Discounts – Administrative Penalties issued in the 4th Quarter 2015/16

Administrative Penalties					
Case ref.	Fraud Type	Fraudulent overpayment £	Period of overpayment or Evasion of liability	Date Administrative Penalty issued	Comment
14278 / 1055414	CofC	£1277 (HB)	01/04/13 – 01/02/15	08/02/16	The claimant is no longer entitled to Housing Benefit. The overpayment and penalty are being recovered.
		£45 (CTR)	19/05/13 – 31/03/15		
14165 / 45523	CofC	£11,967 (HB)	09/01/12 – 11/01/15	26/01/16	
		£983 (CTB)	09/01/12 – 31/03/13		
14197 / 1074237	LT	£6,010 (HB)	19/05/14 – 01/03/15	22/01/16	DWP led investigation. Customer no longer resides in the Medway area
		£2,617 (DWP)	16/05/14 – 23/01/15		
14280 / 1058321	CofC	£1,477 (HB)	06/01/14 – 18/01/15	10/02/16	
Totals		£20,461 (HB) £983 (CTB) £45 (CTR)			
		£21,489			

Table 4 – Benefits, Council Tax Reduction and Single Person Discount overpayments identified and recorded by the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team during the 4th Quarter 2015/16 – With comparison to the same quarter in previous financial years.

Types of overpayment	4th Quarter 2013/14 £	4th Quarter 2014/15 £	4th Quarter 2015/16 £
Housing Benefit (HB)	88,834	276,455	398,816
Council Tax Benefit (CTB)	23,590	16,879	20,869
Council Tax Reduction (CTRS)	5,806	22,002	21,487
Single Person Discount (SPD)	475	2,297	1,943
Other Council Tax Discounts	0	0	0
Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP)	0	0	1,581
JSA / IS	52,367	37,936	16,480
Pension Credit (PC)	33,349	22,922	5,647
Other (e.g. Tax Credits, ESA)	37,352	36,445	12,085
Social Care	0	3,749	0
Totals	241,773	418,685	478,908

Table 5 – Benefits, Council Tax Reduction and Single Person Discount overpayments identified and recorded by the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team during last 3 financial years

Types of overpayment	2013/14 £	2014/15 £	2015/16 £
Housing Benefit (HB)	359,647	906,438	1,103,632
Council Tax Benefit (CTB)	91,021	94,190	73,765
Council Tax Reduction (CTRS)	12,875	44,273	52,246
Single Person Discount (SPD)	2,949	9,402	13,450
Other Council Tax Discounts	0	1,977	13,223
Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP)	0	2,358	3,655
DWP benefits e.g. JSA / IS / ESA	278,162	430,521	143,188
Pension Credit (PC)	52,519	49,022	65,814
Other (e.g. Tax Credits)	91,976	170,744	61,549
Social Care	0	3,749	0
Totals	889,149	1,712,674	1,530,522

Key: -

Clmt Claimant

LT Living together as husband & wife

WC Working & claiming

CAP Failure to declare capital

ND Non Dependent

CofC Failure to report a change in circumstances

Inc Failure to declare income

QB9 Employer prosecuted for failing to supply information requested under Social Security Legislation.

FR False representation

FT False tenancy

SPD Single Person discount

HB Housing Benefit

CTB Council Tax Benefit

CTR Council Tax Reduction

CTE Council Tax Exemption