

Investigation Team – Progress Report

Policies and Procedures

The Fraud Bribery and Corruption Policy has been reviewed and updated, discussions are taking place with Governance and Legal Services prior to its publication.

Training

Accredited Counter Fraud Technician Training delivered by CIPFA has been approved for the Investigation Assistant and will be completed during quarter 3.

Disciplinary Policy, Investigating Officer training continue: there have been five sessions this year, with a total of thirty four attendees and 100% satisfaction.

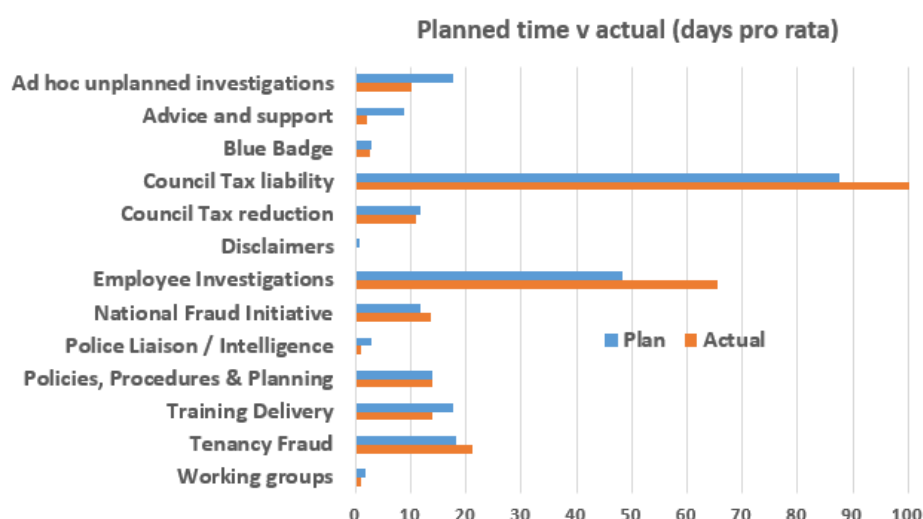
Following on from the popularity of the Investigating Officer training, the Investigation Team has developed and started to deliver half day training for note takers. The first session has been delivered and 100% of attendees were very satisfied with their training.

Resources



After 15 years' service within Internal Audit, the team's Investigator will be leaving to work for the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales. The post has been advertised externally and it is hoped will be filled before the end of quarter 3.

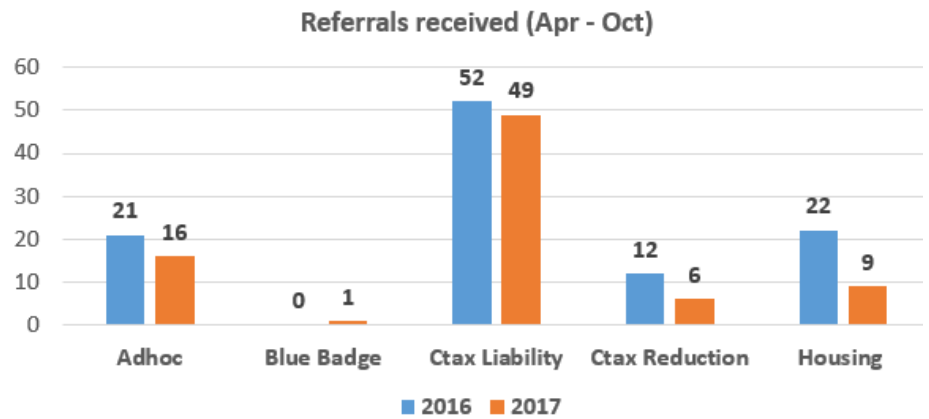
The 2017 fraud plan allocates 417 days for investigative work, including undertaking investigations and providing training, specialist advice, guidance and support.



Time has been set aside in the Audit Plan for Computer Audit work. The Group Auditor (Investigations) is currently assisting the Computer Auditor to deliver their assignments and 7 days have been attributed to this work by the Investigation Team to date.

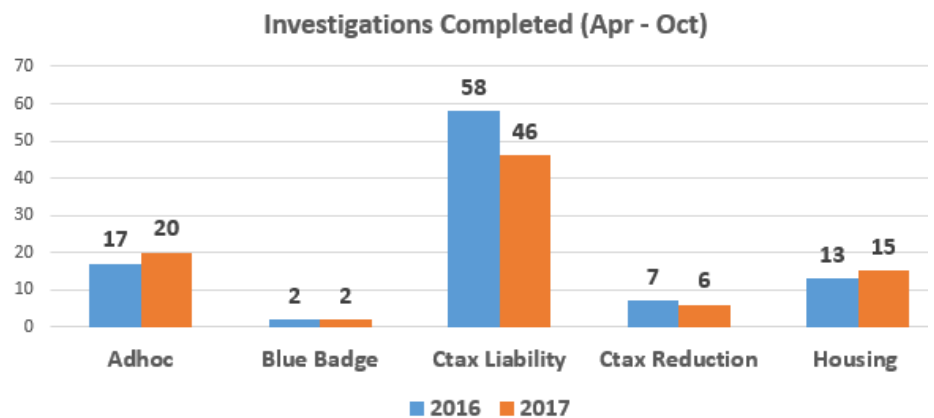
Reactive - Referrals

81 referrals were received by the team, compared to 107 last year:

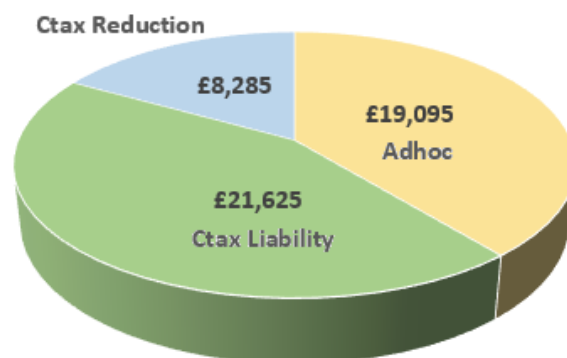


Investigations concluded

89 cases were concluded with a value of £49,000, compared to 97 cases last year with a value of £43,000:



Value of concluded investigations



Ad-hoc referrals relate to any other fraud or allegation not listed above and may include employees or external parties. The investigation may either be led by the investigation team, or assistance / advice will be provided and include the following allegations:

- Falsification of certificates
- Forgery
- Fraud by abuse of position
- Misuse of internet during work
- Pension life certificate validation

Sanctions

Four cases have been reported to the Police, two remain open and under investigation.

Two individuals have been cautioned as a result of committing fraud in respect of Council Tax discounts.

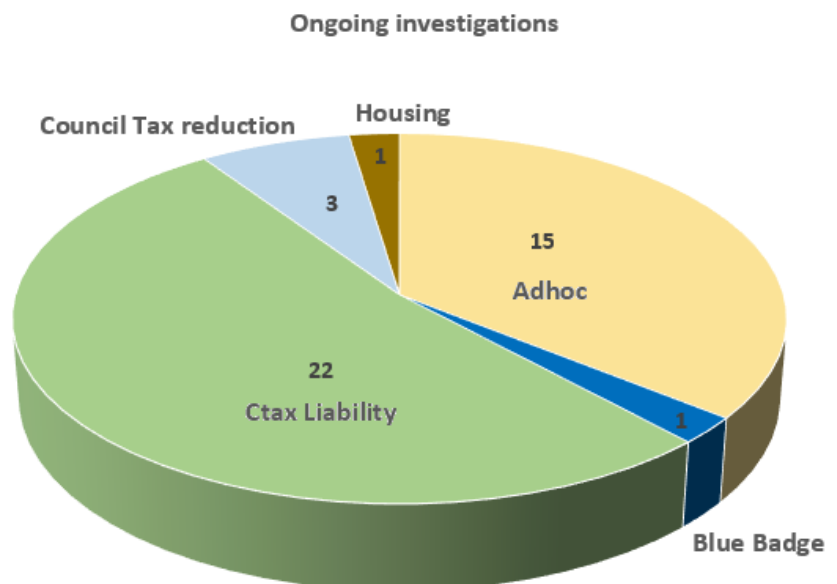
One individual has been prosecuted as a result of illegally subletting their council house and the property recovered.

One individual was prosecuted as a result of committing fraud by abuse of position.

Legal has recently decided not to instigate sanction action against a parent who had failed to report a relevant school placement change of circumstances causing an overpayment of £54,000. The Council is now attempting to recover the overpayment.

Investigations ongoing

There are 42 ongoing investigations currently assigned to members of the investigation team:



Data Matching



The National Fraud Initiative (NFI) is a data-matching exercise that helps detect and prevent fraud and overpayments from the public purse across the UK. Since its commencement in 1996, NFI exercises have resulted in the detection and prevention of more than £30 million of fraud and overpayments in Wales.

NFI 2016 generated 2,396 matches for Cardiff Council that have been recommended for follow up action. To date, more than 1,300 have been cleared and work continues on the remainder. The matches received relate to the following data sets:

- Blue Badge
- Creditors
- Ctax Reduction
- Housing
- Insurance
- Payroll
- Pensions
- Personal Budgets
- Procurement
- Residential Care Homes
- Residential Parking
- Right to Buy
- Taxi drivers