

Investigation Team – Progress Report

Resources



The Investigation Team comprises of 1.5 FTE. An Investigation Assistant (0.5 fte) undertakes civil investigations, risk assesses fraud referrals, obtains intelligence and evidence and identifies suitable fraud cases to be investigated. The team also identify and resolve Council Tax liability irregularities, interviewing liability parties as appropriate and arranging for revised bills to be issued. The Group Auditor (Investigations) undertakes fraud cases / disciplinary investigations (1 fte).

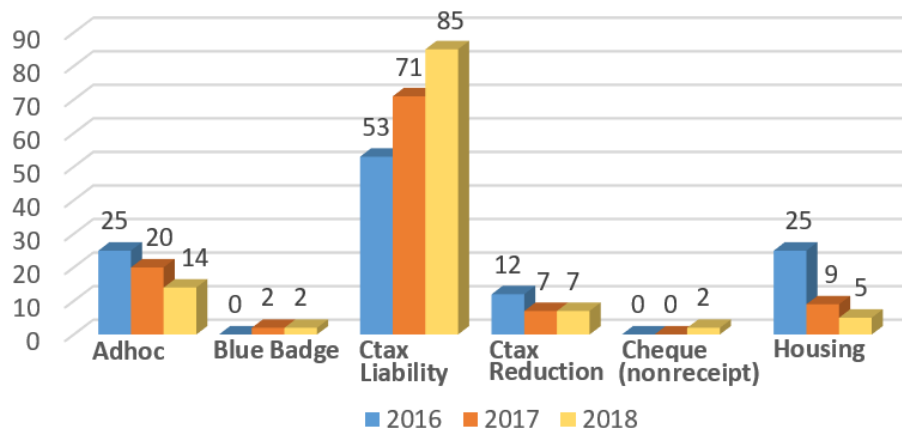
Training

This year, the Investigation Team has delivered 6 Disciplinary Policy, Investigating Officer training sessions, with 51 attendees and has continued to receive positive feedback. 100% of attendees have completed a survey form and all reported they were satisfied with the training received. 17 people attended the Investigatory Interview note taker training, 100% were totally satisfied with the training.

Reactive - Referrals

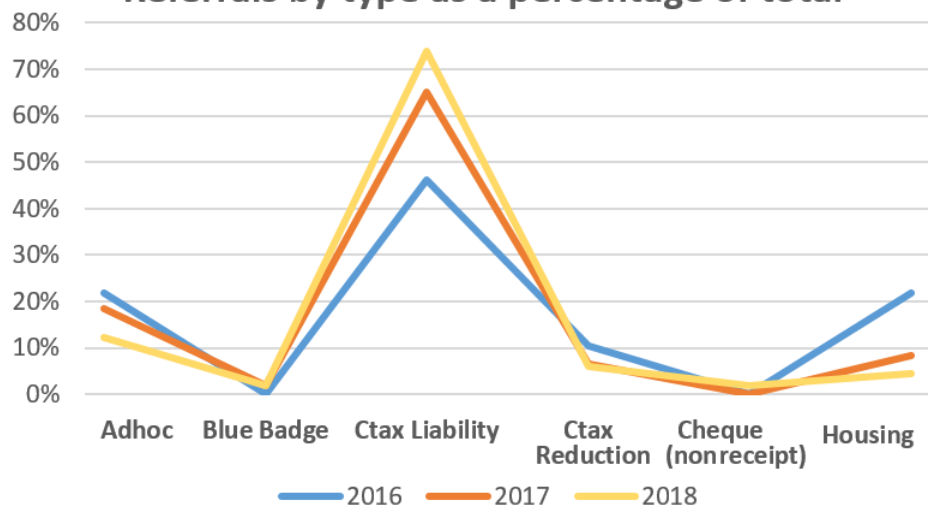
115 referrals were received compared to 109 for the same period last year and 115 in 2016:

Referrals received (Apr - Dec)



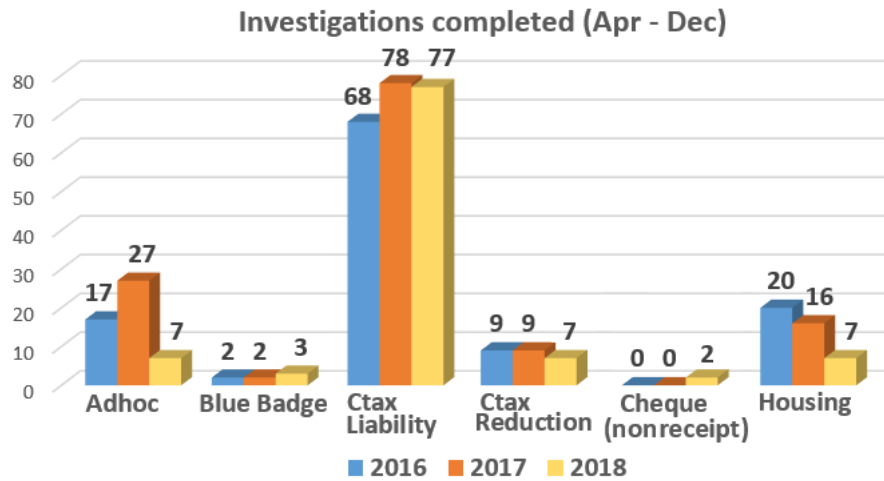
Council Tax Liability referrals have consistently increased during the past 3 years.

Referrals by type as a percentage of total

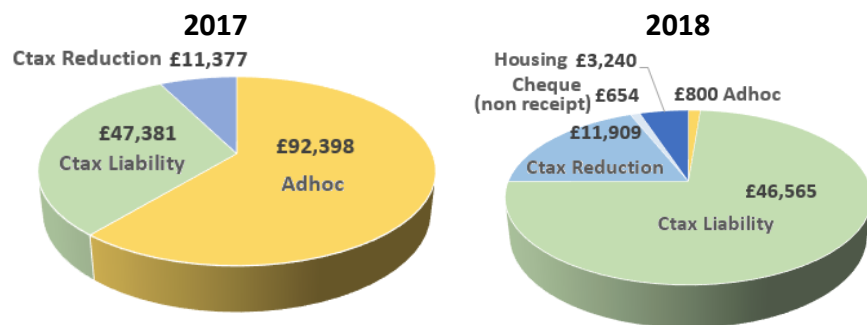


Investigations concluded

103 cases were concluded with a value in excess of £63,000 compared to 132 cases in 2017 and 116 in 2016:

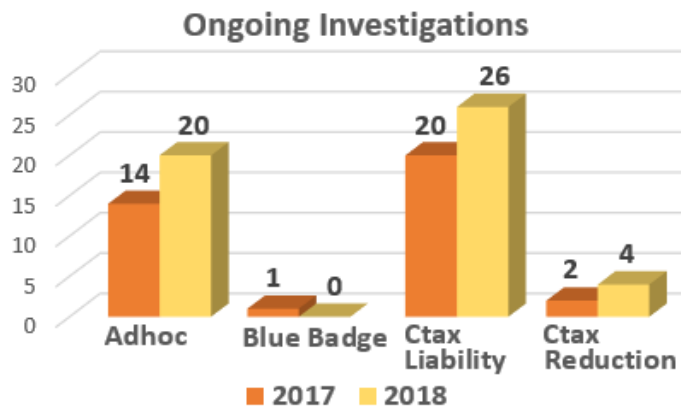


Value of concluded investigations:



Investigations ongoing

There are currently 50 investigations ongoing, compared to 37 last year:



Data Matching



The Investigation Team, working with the Wales Audit Office and Cabinet Office has submitted all of the required data sets in order to participate in the National Fraud Initiative (NFI) 2018 and NFI council tax single person discount 2018 exercises. Data matches (potential fraud and irregularities) will be reviewed during quarter 4.

South Wales Police



The team continues to assist the Police with their criminal investigation within Waste. The Group Auditor (Investigations) is leading the internal disciplinary investigations, with a number of reports already produced. Investigators also liaise with Auditors and Senior Managers to ensure that control weaknesses are addressed. Due to the complexity and scope of the investigation, and the limited team resource, this has had an impact on the team's ability to deal with other criminal referrals. It is expected that the internal investigations will be concluded in quarter 4, enabling normal activities to resume.