

Investigation Team – Progress Report

Resources



Authority has been given to advertise for an additional Investigator post within the team. Positive consultation has already taken place with the Trade Unions, and it is anticipated that the vacancy will be filled during quarter 2.

The team continues to deal with a number of investigations in Waste and this remains a pressure on the team's ability to undertake proactive exercises.

Training

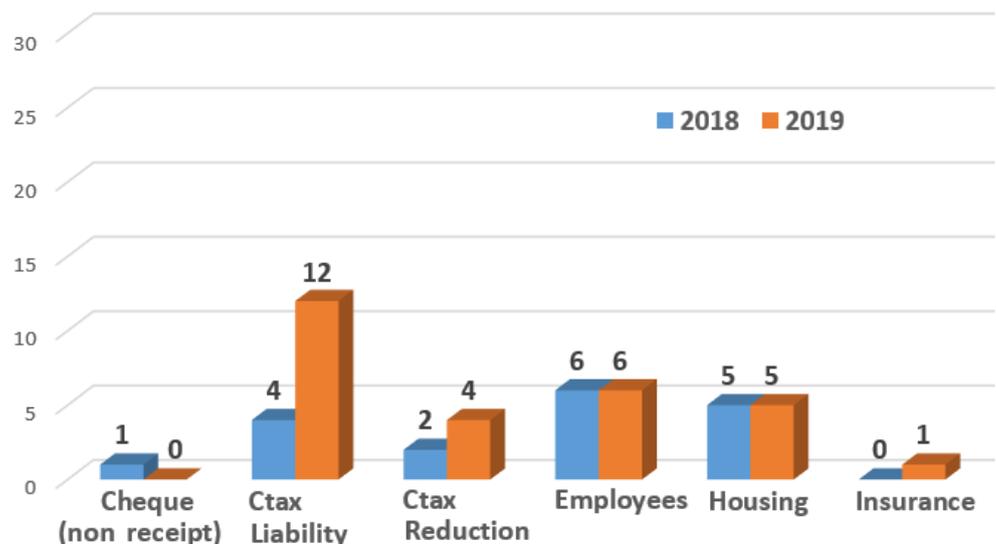
Mandatory Investigating Officer training is still delivered by the team and group sizes continue to be maximised. 1 session has been delivered with 11 attendees, compared to 2 sessions / 13 attendees last year.

Reactive - Referrals

The Council is currently undertaking a pilot exercise to crack down on the abuse of the Blue Badge scheme in the city. The investigation team is assisting by providing advice and support.

Twenty eight fraud referrals were received, compared to 18 for the same period last year:

Referrals received (1st Apr - 31st May 2019)



Proactive - Referrals

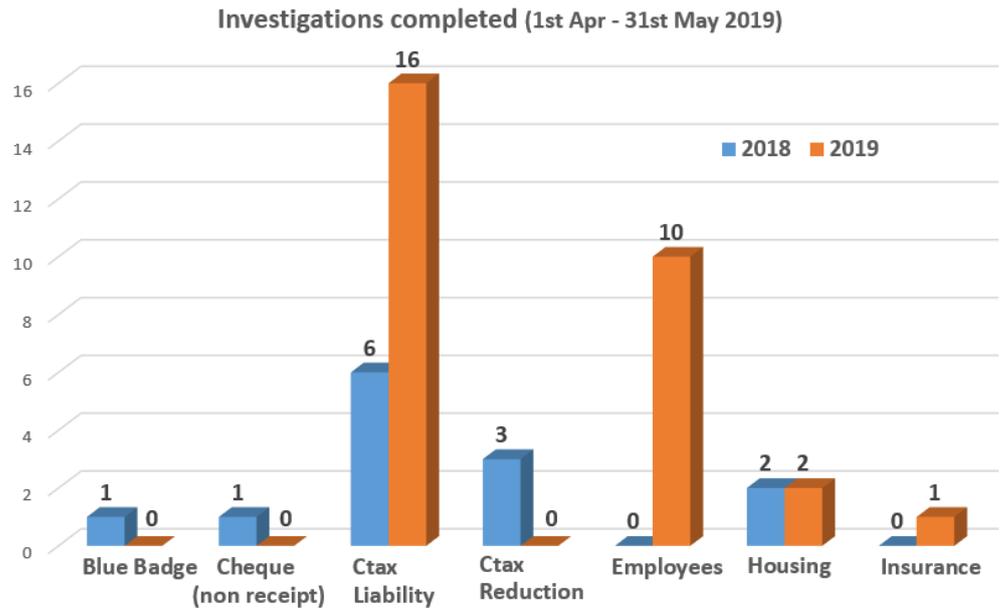
Matches identifying potential frauds and irregularities have been received from the latest (biennial) round of the National Fraud Initiative and to date, 709 matches have been processed, 707 of these have been cleared and 2 errors have been identified with overpayments generated totalling £5,642.17.

In respect of the annual Council Tax exercise, the Investigation Team has reviewed 141 matches, resulting in 36 cases identified as fraud / error and generating 27 overpayments with a total value of £14,912.71.

These cases relate to adult occupants in receipt of a single person discount, when there are other persons registered to vote from the property.

Investigations concluded

Twenty nine investigations have been concluded, with a total value of £12,000 compared to 13 cases last year (£7,000):



Investigations ongoing

There are currently seventy investigations ongoing, of which, 18 relate to criminal allegations. Progress has been impacted by the Waste investigations which the recruitment of a further Investigator is looking to address:



New initiatives

A request has been received from South Wales University to support a student with their Criminology studies, by hosting them for a week and providing unpaid work experience. This request has been accepted and preparations are underway.

An Elearning training module has been sourced in order to raise fraud awareness. This is currently being updated to ensure that it is relevant to Cardiff Council and supports the Counter-Fraud and Corruption Strategy and will be rolled out in July.

International Fraud Awareness Week will be running between the 17th and 23rd November 2019, a publicity campaign is planned and preparations are underway.