

Numbers prosecuted and types of action taken against benefit fraudsters

Numbers prosecuted and types of action taken against benefit fraudsters by DWP

| Fiscal Year | Cases accepted for Investigation | Effective Outcomes * | Prosecutions | Administrative Penalties & Cautions |
|-------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| 99/00 | 562,235 | 198,467 | 9,272 | 11,029 |
| 00/01 | 442,100 | 182,569 | 11,584 | 15,555 |
| 01/02 | 397,035 | 160,974 | 11,355 | 13,551 |
| 02/03 | 337,221 | 145,232 | 9,396 | 14,273 |
| 03/04 | 326,599 | 135,710 | 9,204 | 16,159 |

* Effective outcomes are cases which have resulted in a benefit adjustment

Numbers prosecuted and types of action taken against benefit fraudsters by Local Authorities

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit are administered by local authorities.

| Fiscal Year | Investigations | Prosecutions* | Successful Prosecutions | Administrative Penalties and Cautions |
|-------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 00/01 | 370,000 | N/A | 1,100 | 550 |
| 01/02 | 310,000 | 2,101 | 1,732 | 2,601 |
| 02/03 | 200,000 | 3,187 | 2,503 | 6,001 |
| 03/04 | 180,000 | 4,601 | 3,747 | 8,695 |

* Cases for which a court summons was issued

Notes:

Figures for investigations in all years and for sanctions in 2000/01 are taken from administrative returns and include estimates for local authorities that did not supply data. Figures for sanctions for 2001/2 onwards are taken from local authority subsidy claim forms.

Where benefit fraud has been established, three types of sanction are currently available for use. These are cautions, administrative penalties and prosecutions. The decision on which to use depends on the seriousness of the offence.