

ITEM 8, app 1

FRAUD SECTION MONITORING REPORT: SECOND QUARTER 2005/06

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1.0 FRAUD WORK IN THE SECOND QUARTER 2005/06

1.1 Caseload investigated to the end of the second quarter

Number of cases referred:	65
Number of cases accepted for investigation:	51
Number of cases closed non-proven:	7
Number of cases summonsed for prosecution:	5
Number of successful prosecutions:	3
Number of prosecutions found "Not guilty":	none
Number of prosecutions rejected:	none
Number of Administrative Penalties (fines) given:	none (2 pending)
Number of Cautions given:	3

2.0 PROGRESS AGAINST TARGETS

2.1 The DWP set an annual target [based on the Benefits caseload] of 30 sanctions. The Fraud budget includes target income of £36,000 . This is incentive funding available from the Department of Works and Pensions (DWP). We are rewarded for any sanctions imposed as follows:

Each successful prosecution:	£3,500
Each Administrative Penalty given:	£1,200
Each Caution given:	£1,200

2.2 In order to meet the annual targets, this averages out at £3,000 per month and 2.5 sanctions. For the half year to 30 September 2005, we have achieved:-

6 Summons issued	£7200
3 successful prosecutions	£6,000
6 Cautions	£7,200

2.3 This means that we are above target to meet the annual target figure.

3.0 STAFFING ISSUES

3.1 All fraud posts are filled. The Admin Support Officer is now undertaking specialist fraud investigation training (PINS) and should be fully qualified by the end of the financial year.

3.2 Prosecutions are now being handled by external solicitors and this should minimize the delay in cases being taken to court.

3.3 The Revenues and Benefits Manager has now been appointed. This should help with resolving the calculation of overpayments issue, which has previously delayed sanctions being carried out.

4.0 CURRENT FRAUD WORK

4.1 The Fraud section is currently undertaking a caseload of 153 live investigations. 6 cases have been summoned for prosecution. 6 Cautions and 2 Admin. Penalties have been offered but now needs to be held for a 28 day cooling off period.

5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Fraud work is progressing in line with the business plan . The priority is currently completion of the national fraud initiative and this is well on plan

5.2 It is recommended that Members note this report.

List of Appendices: None

Background papers: Fraud Case Files 2005/06

Officers Consulted: Corporate Team