

**HOUSING COMMITTEE
INFORMATION SHEET (NO.8)
DECEMBER 2020**

The purpose of this information sheet is to provide an update for members regarding the number of fraud cases, which have been reported in the last 2 financial years.

Introduction

Cases can only be deemed as fraud if a prosecution has taken place therefore the cases which have been considered by Tenant Services are referred to as irregular reports. The information below shows all irregular cases over a 2-year period for Housing Services:

Year	Number of Cases
2018/19	20
2019/2020	10
2020/2021	4*

* Please note the 2020/21 figure is year to date at the time of writing this information.

Overall the number of reported fraud irregularities represent an average of 0.4% of the total properties managed by Tenant Services. This breaks down in to an average report of less than 2 cases per month throughout each financial year. The cases reported to Housing Services are across the district.

The general types of cases reported are of alleged subletting or the tenant not living at their home on a permanent basis. These cases are reported mainly via the website.

Counter Fraud Unit:

This unit assists with the investigations of fraud irregularities and takes the lead when interviewing tenants under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE).

Summary

A review of officer responsibilities has highlighted a gap in this area and it is intended that we will ensure Neighbourhood Management Officers are suitable trained and equipped to conduct PACE interviews. At present there are issues around permanent resourcing that we are addressing.