

NATIONAL FRAUD INITIATIVE: UPDATE

	High	Medium	Low	Nil	Total	Cases
Blue Badge Parking Permit	64	69	1	0	134	All investigated
<p>132 blue badge cases relate to where the recipient has died and the badge could still be in circulation, with the other 2 cases relating to matches where a badge has been issued at two different local authorities. While the Council records have been updated we are awaiting confirmation with the section that administers the scheme to establish whether each permit has been recovered or are in the process of being recovered.</p> <p>For NFI outcomes, if the Permit is cancelled, a notional value of £575 per badge is attributed resulting in an estimated £77,050 in potential future parking income.</p>						

Concessionary Travel Pass	310	279	0	0	589	All investigated
<p>Similarly, 589 travel passes relate to where the recipient has died and the travel pass could still be in circulation. Permit records have been updated. For NFI outcomes, if the Pass is cancelled, a notional value of £24 per pass is set aside – potentially a loss of £14,136.</p>						

Council Tax Reduction Scheme	25	72	501	18	616	Under review: 76 Cleared: 369 Not in sample:171
<p>Matches identify cases where individuals in receipt of council tax reduction have failed to declare employment or pension income that might remove or reduce entitlement to reduction scheme. Cases for investigation are referred through to Council Tax and Benefits for reassessment of each case – if there remains a live claim. Records are updated and closed once the position is known.</p> <p>With a high percentage of low risk matches, these have been sample checked.</p>						

Housing Benefit Claimants	75	18	481	11	585	Under review: 45 Cleared: 430 Not in sample: 110
<p>Matches identify cases who are claiming Housing Benefits and income may not have been declared, such as employment and pension income, student loans or it may be the case that the claimant has died and the benefits may still be being paid.</p> <p>A large percentage of income has been declared and the matches cleared. Where there is a live claim and income not declared, each case is referred through to DWP for investigation. No values of fraud have been provided by DWP to date.</p> <p>Similarly, low risk cases have been sampled.</p>						

	High	Medium	Low	Nil	Total	Cases
Payroll	1	7	9	2	19	All investigated

Matches identify individuals who may be committing employment fraud by failing to work their contracted hours because they are employed elsewhere or are taking long-term sickness absence from one employer and working for another at the same time. The criteria for a match are a person having one full time post plus at least one other post elsewhere.

All cases have been investigated and no issues identified. Each case relates to an officer who either joined or left PCC during the early part of the year (between local authorities) so that they will appear on each respective Councils payroll.

Personal Alcohol Licence	1	0	0	0	1	Closed
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This case has matched against a potential identity fraud record elsewhere, this could be that the person may be the actual victim of identity fraud rather than a fraudster. We have liaised with the Metropolitan Police.

Personal Budgets	6	11	5	1	23	Investigated
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Matches identify cases where individuals have died but payments may still be being made or where individuals may have failed to declare pension income that might affect entitlement.

No issues have been found.

Private Residential Care Homes	14	10	0	0	24	Investigated
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Matches identify cases where individuals have died but PCC may not have been notified so potentially continuing to make payments.

No overpayments have been identified.

Residential Parking Permit	8	0	3	0	11	Investigated
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Matches identify cases where a resident parking permit has been matched to deceased records.

All permits have been cancelled, there has been a small delay in updating records around the time of the data download.

Taxi Drivers	1	0	0	0	1	Closed
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This case has matched against a potential identity fraud record elsewhere, this could be that the person may be the actual victim of identity fraud rather than a fraudster. We are liaised with the Metropolitan Police.

	High	Medium	Low	Nil	Total	Cases
Housing Waiting List	23	362	2	1	387	Under review: 81 Cleared: 306
<p>These are cases where the applicant has died and not been removed from the list or the individual appears to have registered on the list using two different addresses suggesting possible undisclosed changes in circumstances or that false information has been provided. This could be at addresses within PCC or other Councils.</p> <p>94 records so far have been removed from the housing waiting list with an estimated notional value (£3,240) as prescribed by the NFI, of £304,560. It is expected that further records will be removed from the waiting list.</p> <p>One of the primary records verified to is the Electoral Roll, this has identified further changes which are being acted upon.</p> <p>We have also noted that the department is migrating to a new housing system. Despite notifying of a number of data errors, it is understood that the data has been transferred including the errors.</p>						

Council Tax – Single Person Discounts

	Total	
Council Tax to Electoral Register	1,784	Reviewed to date: 1,777 cases
<p>Matches identify addresses where the householder is claiming a SPD on the basis that they live alone yet the electoral register suggests that there is more than one person in the household aged 18 or over.</p> <p>A total of £61,227 has been identified to date for recovery in relation to 147 cases and steps have been taken by Council Tax to recover. (In comparison, the previous years exercise was 35 cases / £16,000),</p> <p>A further 158 cases saw SPD cancelled, with the total amount of discount awarded per annum for these where discount was withdrawn being £43,320. (Previous years exercise comparison 77 cases / £22,000).</p>		
Council Tax to rising 18s	105	Cleared: 47 cases Investigating: 58
<p>The electoral register also includes details of individuals who are approaching their 18th birthday. Unless there is an exemption, for example, a student, then the single person discount would need to be revoked from the date of their birthday.</p> <p>Council Tax have been following up on each case.</p>		

Pilot Studies: HMRC Records Matches

Council Tax Reduction Scheme to HMRC Earnings and Capital <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify potential non-declaration or under declared income from earnings 	23
Council Tax Reduction Scheme to HMRC Household Composition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify potential non-declaration of non-dependent adults residing at the property with potentially non / under declared income from earnings 	463
Housing Benefit Claimants to HMRC Household Composition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify potential non-declaration of non-dependent adults residing at the property with potentially non / under declared income from earnings 	147
Private Residential Care Homes to HMRC Property Ownership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify potential non-declaration of property impacting on the charges for care 	3
Private Residential Care Homes to HMRC Earnings and Capital <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify potential non-declaration or under declared income from earnings 	8
TOTAL INITIAL MATCHES RELEASED	644

Sample testing to date has identified that:

- PCC is aware of where properties are held by residents if in a care home'
- Earnings identified refer to previous years where there is no live claim in place for Council Tax Reduction Scheme; and
- Similarly, matches generated are linked by property. A number of matches have provided data for previous tenants / owners.

A supplementary data release has recently been received which compares HMRC records with those properties which are the Council Tax database where there is an associated single person discount. These should be new matches as they would not have been identified previously as other studies have focussed on the Electoral Roll.

Council Tax Single Person Discount to HMRC Household Composition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies potentially more than one adult residing at the property 	6,280
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As a recent addition, no time has been spent on this to date. This will be sample tested alongside the January 2020 release of SPD matches.

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