

## APPENDIX E

### 1. Have these sorts of frauds increased over the past few years?

#### During 2011/12

Fraud Type	Percentage of proven cases
Working & Claiming	<b>24%</b>
Living Together	<b>19%</b>
Undeclared Capital	<b>11%</b>
No longer living there	<b>8%</b>

#### During 2010/11

Fraud Type	Percentage of proven cases
Working & Claiming	<b>23%</b>
Living Together	<b>13%</b>
Undeclared Capital	<b>5%</b>
No longer living there	<b>9%</b>

### 2. **DWP involvement – how much of this is DWP informing us of frauds or us telling DWP and them then getting involved?**

When possible we look to join work with the DWP to ensure a joined up approach to an investigation. The cases which have been highlighted in the report contain 3 which were initially dealt with by DWP and once they realised there was a Local Authority interest we were invited to joint work. 1 case was passed to us by DWP (Toxteth) to investigate as they identified there had been a period we paid the customer benefit when he wasn't in their area. This was not joint working, as they had already dealt with their period in question.

### 3. **In my report I add a caveat the amounts of overpayment listed are not necessarily the amounts that we recover. I was asked how much does get recovered annually.**

It is not within my remit to monitor the recovery of overpayments of benefit whether customer error or fraudulent. However, I do monitor the recovery of the Administrative Penalties and ensure these are being collected.

Since this monitoring has been undertaken we have increased the amount of Adpens collected as can be seen below:-

2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
<b>£4,844.80</b>	<b>£3,812.57</b>	<b>£4,897.61</b>	<b>£7,553.33</b>	<b>£9,546.18</b>

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### **4. When a fraud has been proved do we get any custodial sentences?**

No. It is unusual for us to get custodial sentences, despite some of the amounts of money which have been de-frauded.

We will not do press releases for cases where the sentencing is so poor it will not act as a deterrent, but quite the opposite. We have had a number of these this year.

I would be more than happy to attend a future meeting to provide a greater understanding of the work undertaken by the fraud team. Also if you would like to ask any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I will be able to provide figures relating to this year's investigations by the end of April 2013.