

From: [Foi Enquiries](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI-17-1439 - Housing Benefits
Date: 02 November 2017 10:13:00
Attachments: [Further Information - Right to Review & Appeal.pdf](#)

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your information request of 6 October 2017. Aberdeen City Council (ACC) has completed the necessary search for the information requested.

1) Can you tell me how much housing benefit you overpaid to claimants/customers last year 2016/2017? (and the previous two years 2015/16 and 2014/15)

Overpaid 2016/17: £2,181,395

Overpaid 2015/16: £2,741,635

Overpaid 2014/15: £2,773,706

2) And how many claimants/customers are in receipt of the benefit in 2016/2017? (and the previous two years 2015/16 and 2014/15)

HB Caseload 16/17: 14,230

HB Caseload 15/16: 13,959

HB Caseload 14/15: 13,854

3) Can you break down this overpayment figure into how much was overpaid by fraudulent claims in 2016/2017? (and the previous two years 2015/16 and 2014/15)

Fraud 16/17: £20,970

Fraud 15/16: £23,480

Fraud 14/15: £64,497

4) And how much due to authority error in 2016/2017? (and the previous two years 2015/16 and 2014/15)

LA Error 16/17: £156,490

LA Error 15/16: £248,698

LA Error 14/15: £383,628

5) Out of the total overpaid can you tell me how much, if any, the council has recovered in 2016/2017? (and the previous two years 2015/16 and 2014/15)

Recovered 16/17: £1,429,161

Recovered 15/16: £1,690,054

Recovered 14/15: £1,605,325

6) And if so how you do this (do you employ debt collectors etc)?

Recovery by Invoices, Agreements with customers, Recovery from on-going benefit, Referral to Sheriff Officer, Deductions from DWP benefits.

7) Out of the total overpaid can you tell me how much, if any, the council has "written off" in 2016/2017?

Written off 16/17: £289,893

Written off 15/16: £202,421

Written off 14/15: £194,196

8) Can you tell me how many of the overpayments resulted in

a) Court prosecutions,

b) Penalty payments

(c) And council cautions?

Can you supply the answers to question 8 a,b and c for the years 2016/17, 2015/16 and 2014/15

Please note that on 1 April 2015 responsibility for HB investigations was transferred to the Department for Work and Pensions and therefore ACC does not hold the information for the years 2016/17 and 2015/16.

For 2014/2015:

(a) Cases referred to Procurator Fiscal: 27

(b) Penalties: 6

(c) Cautions: 6

ACC is unable to provide you with information on **the number of overpayments resulted in a) court prosecutions, b) penalty payments and c) council cautions for the years 2016/17 and 2015/16** as it is not held by ACC. In order to comply with its obligations under the terms of Section 17 of the FOISA, ACC hereby gives notice that this information is not held by it.

We hope this helps with your request.

Yours sincerely,

Information Compliance Team

INFORMATION ABOUT THE HANDLING OF YOUR REQUEST

ACC handled your request for information in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Please refer to the attached PDF for more information about your rights under FOISA.

Information Compliance Team

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