



Reference: FOI3616

Request:

Please could you breakdown the following information from 1 March 2020 to 28 February 2021.

Please could the information be broken down concisely and as I have requested- in the most simple language/terms possible.

Q1) How many overpayments did your council identify for claims made as part of Covid-related government grant schemes it administered (for example, but not limited to: small business rates grant scheme; retail, hospital and leisure grant scheme) over the stated period?

1a) If such overpayments did occur, please could you tell me the total frequency of/ reasons for /such overpayment (for example, but not limited to: 'payment error', 'ineligible claim', 'fraudulent claim').

1aa) For each of these overpayments please can you state: the cost to the council of the overpayment amount (in £); how much of its total has been recovered (in £) as of the current date, and how much money (in £) is outstanding as of the current date.

So, for instance, taking the 'fraudulent claim' category as an example, your council may have made overpayments worth £300,000 for 30 fraudulent claims, recovered £25,000 for 2 of them as of the current date, meaning there is £275,000 outstanding for 28.

1b) In relation to the identified fraudulent claims, please can you break this information down in terms of what kind of fraud occurred (for example, but not limited to: 'organised fraud').

Response:

Q1) 21 cases of possible overpayment identified - being investigated. 19 of these relate to the small business grants scheme and 2 relate to the retail, hospitality and leisure grants scheme. No other overpayments have been identified in relation to any other Covid grant schemes.

1a) 20 apparent applicant error and 1 case classed as fraud.

1aa) applicant error - 20 cases totalling £215,000. Nil recovered. 20 cases totalling £215,000 outstanding and being investigated. fraud - 1 case totalling £10,000. Nil recovered. 1 case totalling £10,000 outstanding and being investigated.

1b) a single case of 1 individual making a fraudulent application, so not large-scale organised fraud.

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