

## 1. Local Government Transparency Code.

1.1 Under the code the Council is required to publish the following data regarding its Fraud Investigation activity. Listed below are 2018/19 figures to 30 September (with 2017/18 comparative figures shown within brackets)

- Accredited number of occasions they use powers under the Prevention of Social Housing Fraud (Power to Require Information) (England) Regulations 2014, or similar powers

	18/19	(17/18)
Prevention of Social Housing Fraud (Power to Require Information) (England) Regulations 2014	14	9

The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Detection of Fraud and Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2013	3	0
---	---	---

- Total number (absolute and full time equivalent) of employees undertaking investigations and prosecutions of fraud

	Absolute	FTE
Fraud Investigation - SWLFP #	15 (15)	14.5 (14.5)

- Total number (absolute and full time equivalent) of professionally accredited counter fraud specialists

PINS trained Fraud Specialist	7 (6)	7.0 (6.0)
CIPFA Certificate in Investigative Practices	1 (2)	1.0 (2.0)
CIPFA Accredited Counter Fraud Specialist	4 (4)	4.0 (4.0)

- Total amount spent by the authority on the investigation and prosecution of fraud

	18/19	(17/18)
Other Fraud Investigation	£121.1k	£118.7k

- Total number of fraud cases investigated.

Housing/Tenancy related Investigations	242	99
Right to Buy	18	72
Permit Fraud Investigation	12	18
Other Investigations	43	41
TOTAL	315	230

- 1.2 To ensure that sufficient knowledge and capability for fraud investigation Merton Council entered into a partnership with four neighbouring boroughs, the SWLFP. The Council has access to the pool of trained fraud investigation officers' dependent upon the demands of any individual fraud referral. # Merton's funding contribution for 2018/19 equates to 2.0 FTE Investigators.