

Transparency Fraud Report 2020-2021

The Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority (the Authority) is a large public authority and expects the highest standards of conduct and integrity from its Members, employees and from all who have dealings with it. The Authority recognises the importance of these standards and the high expectations of the public in this respect. The Authority has set a culture and tone that embodies honesty and an active opposition to corruption and dishonesty, which it's Members and employees are expected to demonstrate through leading by example.

The Authority has a Confidential Reporting Policy, also known as the "Whistleblowing Code", which sets out a procedure on how to raise concerns of a serious nature. The Authority's Fraud and Corruption Policy focuses specifically on procedures for dealing with allegations of financial irregularities and is intended to:

- encourage prevention of dishonesty;
- promote the detection of dishonesty; and
- identify a clear pathway for investigation

Acts of dishonesty within the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service are extremely rare. This reflects the skills, dedication and decency of Authority Members, employees and others with whom the Authority has dealings. However, constant vigilance is necessary to ensure that this good record is maintained.

Click link for the Authority's Confidential Reporting Policy ("Whistleblowing Code")
<http://www.dsfire.gov.uk/FireAuthority/ConstitutionalGovernance/documents/DSFRAWhistleblowingCode.pdf>

Click link for the Authority's Fraud and Corruption Policy (Strategy on the Prevention and Detection of Fraud and Corruption):
<http://www.dsfire.gov.uk/FireAuthority/ConstitutionalGovernance/documents/DSFRAStrategyforPreventionofFraudandCorruptionLastRevisedMay14.pdf>

Review Period: 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021	TOTALS
Annual publication Publish the following information: ❖ number of occasions they use powers under the Prevention of Social Housing Fraud (Power to Require Information) (England) Regulations 2014, or similar powers	0
❖ total number (absolute and full time equivalent) of employees undertaking investigations and prosecutions of fraud	0.25
❖ total number (absolute and full time equivalent) of professionally accredited counter fraud specialists	0

❖ total amount spent by the authority on the investigation and prosecution of fraud	Investigation £0 Prosecution £0
❖ total number of fraud cases investigated.	0
Local authorities should publish: ❖ total number of cases of irregularity investigated	0
❖ total number of occasions on which a) fraud and b) irregularity was identified	a) 0 b) 0
❖ total monetary value of a) the fraud and b) the irregularity that was detected, and	a) £0 b) £0
❖ total monetary value of a) the fraud and b) the irregularity that was recovered.	a) £0 b) £0

Notes:

- ❖ Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority actively participates in the National Fraud Initiative (NFI) process. This process ensures that data is submitted accurately and supports the review of resulting data matches. Click here for more information about NFI <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-fraud-initiative>
- ❖ No posts exist specifically for the undertaking of investigations and prosecutions of fraud, the responsibility is incorporated into a number of roles.