

Counter Fraud Work Statement

2022-2023



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In its Policy Statement that forms part of the Constitution, The Combined Fire Authority (CFA) adopts a zero-tolerance approach to fraud and corruption of any kind.

Our Anti-Fraud, Anti-Bribery and Corruption Service Policy and Service Procedure (March 2023) further sets out our approach and complies with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption (2014).

The CFA does not directly employ staff purely to undertake investigations and prosecutions of fraud. The Monitoring Officer, The Treasurer and Managers, working with Leicestershire County Council's Internal Audit Service and the police if required, will respond to individual cases as and when the need arises.

No cases of fraud and corruption were investigated in 2022-23 and no expenditure on fraud investigations or fraud loss was incurred.

The CFA is part of the National Fraud Initiative (NFI) which is a national data matching exercise undertaken on a biennial basis by the Cabinet Office and in accordance with statutory powers provided by the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service is a mandatory participant. Data for the NFI is provided by some 1,100 participating organisations from across the public and private sectors. The data is cross matched and compared to key data sets provided by other participants, including government departments, local authorities, the Health Service, some private sector bodies and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) deceased persons database. Data was submitted for the 2022/23 national exercise which attracted a participation fee of £1,190. Work on reviewing the 2022/23 NFI matches has now concluded and no instances of fraudulent activity were noted. The next national exercise will take place in financial year 2024/25.

The CFA receives frequent anti-fraud and corruption updates through local, national and other fraud intelligence. Leicestershire County Council, as the CFA's auditors, is a member of the Midland Counties Fraud Group and shares fraud intelligence with the CFA as and when relevant.