



Stafford
BOROUGH COUNCIL

**SANCTION
PROSECUTION
POLICY**

Benefit Fraud

Our Prosecution Policy

Stafford Borough Council will take appropriate action against any person or group proven to have committed benefit fraud. This includes prosecution through the criminal courts. On average we prosecute at least one case of benefit fraud per month.

Each case investigated will be treated on its own merits and we can offer alternatives to prosecution in those cases deemed less severe. These alternatives are:

- Administrative Penalty (fine of 30% of money fraudulently obtained)
- Local Authority Caution

We will **name** those people successfully prosecuted for benefit fraud on the website and in the press and we will vigorously recover the benefit which has been fraudulently obtained using all methods available to us, including:

- court action
- freezing bank accounts and assets
- seizing goods

We will actively undertake prosecutions with other government departments so that the courts can see the full value of the fraud committed and any sentence passed by the court can reflect this value.

Contact details

Benefit Fraud Hotline

Telephone 01785 619447

Email: fraud@staffordbc.gov.uk