

# Protecting the Public Purse

## Fraud Briefing 2013

### London Borough of Tower Hamlets



# Agenda

- Introduction and purpose of your Fraud Briefing
- *Protecting the Public Purse (PPP) 2013* report – national picture
- Interpreting fraud detection results
- The local picture
- Questions?

*And do not forget*

- Checklist for those charged with governance (Appendix 2 of PPP 2013)*
- Questions councillors may want to ask/consider (Appendix 3 of PPP 2013)*

# Introduction

- Fraud costs local government in England over £2 billion per year (*source: National Fraud Authority*)
- Fraud is never a victimless crime
- Councillors have an important role in the fight against fraud

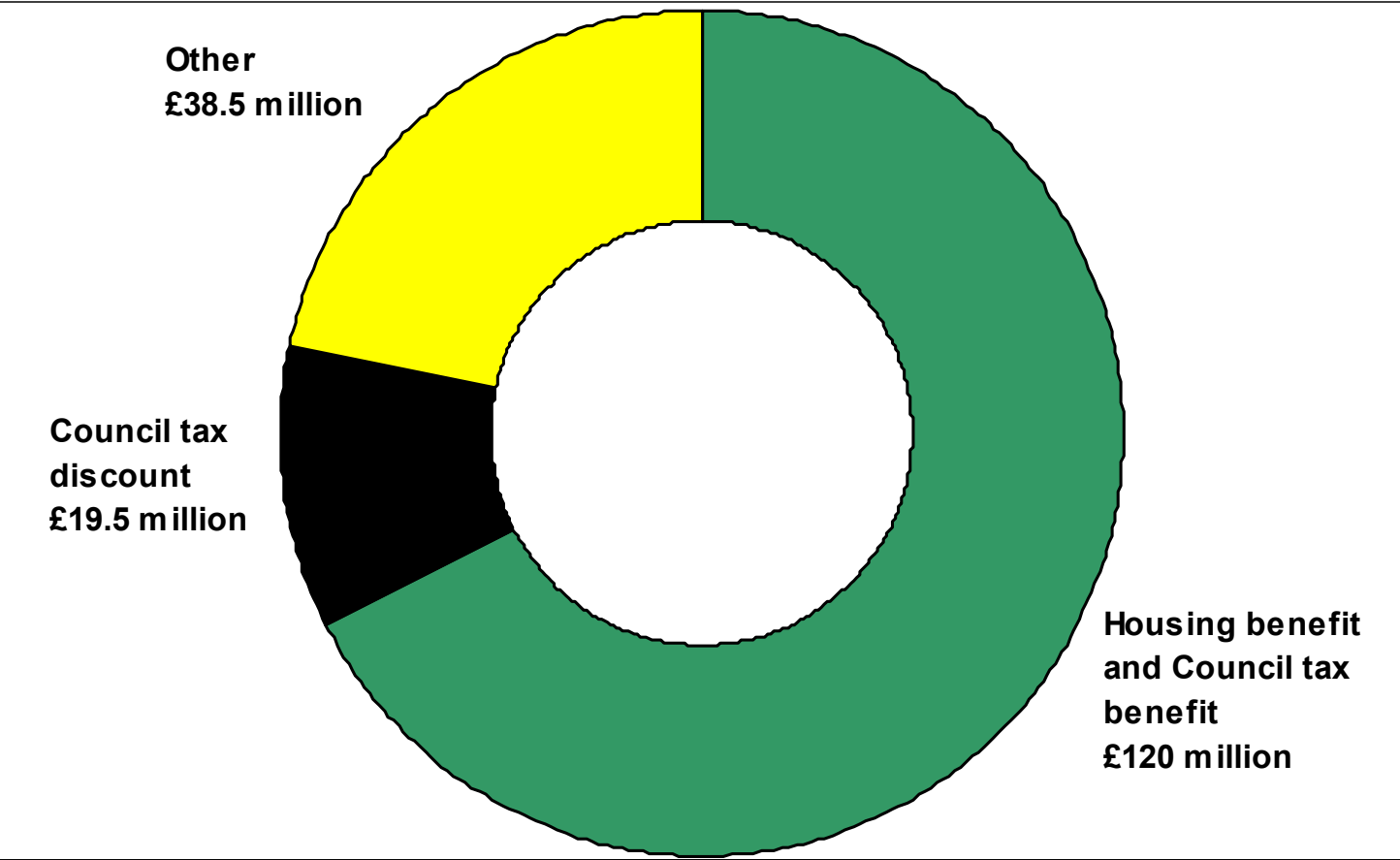


# Purpose of Fraud Briefing at your council

- Opportunity for councillors to consider fraud detection performance, compared to similar local authorities;
- Reviews current counter fraud strategy and priorities;
- Discuss local and national fraud risks;
- Reflect local priorities in a proportionate response to those risks

# National Picture 2012/13

Total cases detected 107,000, with a value of £178 million (excluding social housing fraud)



*Nationally, the number of detected frauds has fallen by 14% since 2011/12 and the value by less than 1%*

# Interpreting fraud detection results

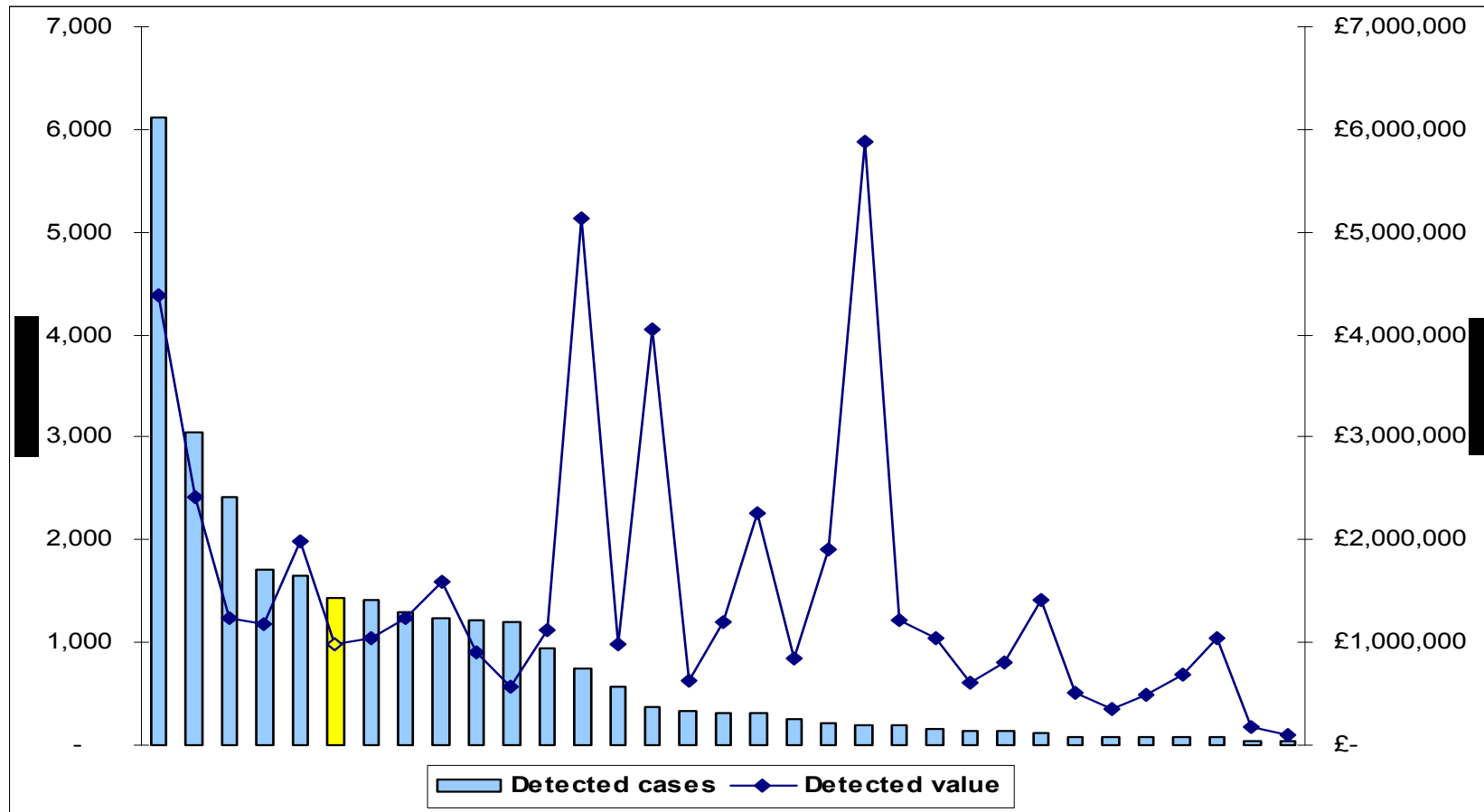
- Contextual and comparative information needed to interpret results
- Detected fraud is indicative, not definitive, of counter fraud performance (Prevention and deterrence should not be overlooked)
- No fraud detected does not mean no fraud committed (Fraud will always be attempted and even with the best prevention measures some will succeed)
- Councils who look for fraud, and look in the right way, will find fraud (There is no such thing as a small fraud, just a fraud that has been detected early)

*Your council is highlighted in yellow in the graphs that follow*

## The local picture

Your council compared to other London Boroughs.

Total detected cases and value 2012/13 (excluding social housing fraud)

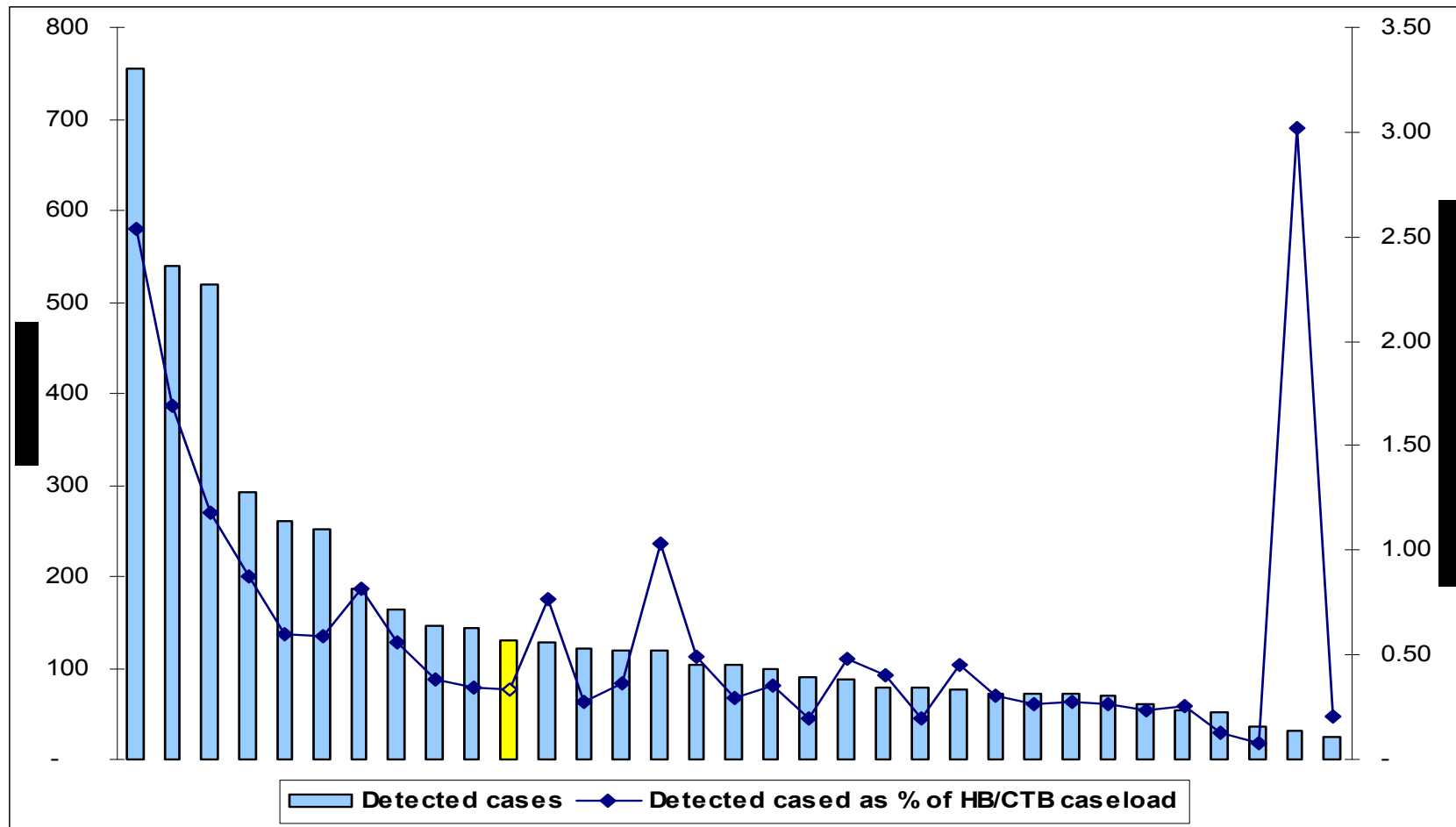


Tower Hamlets detected: 1,440 cases, valued at £989,656

# London Boroughs 2012/13

## Housing benefit (HB) and Council tax benefit (CTB) fraud

### Detected cases and detected cases as a percentage of HB/CTB caseload



Tower Hamlets detected: 131 cases, valued at £599,674

London average: 153 cases, valued at £874,394

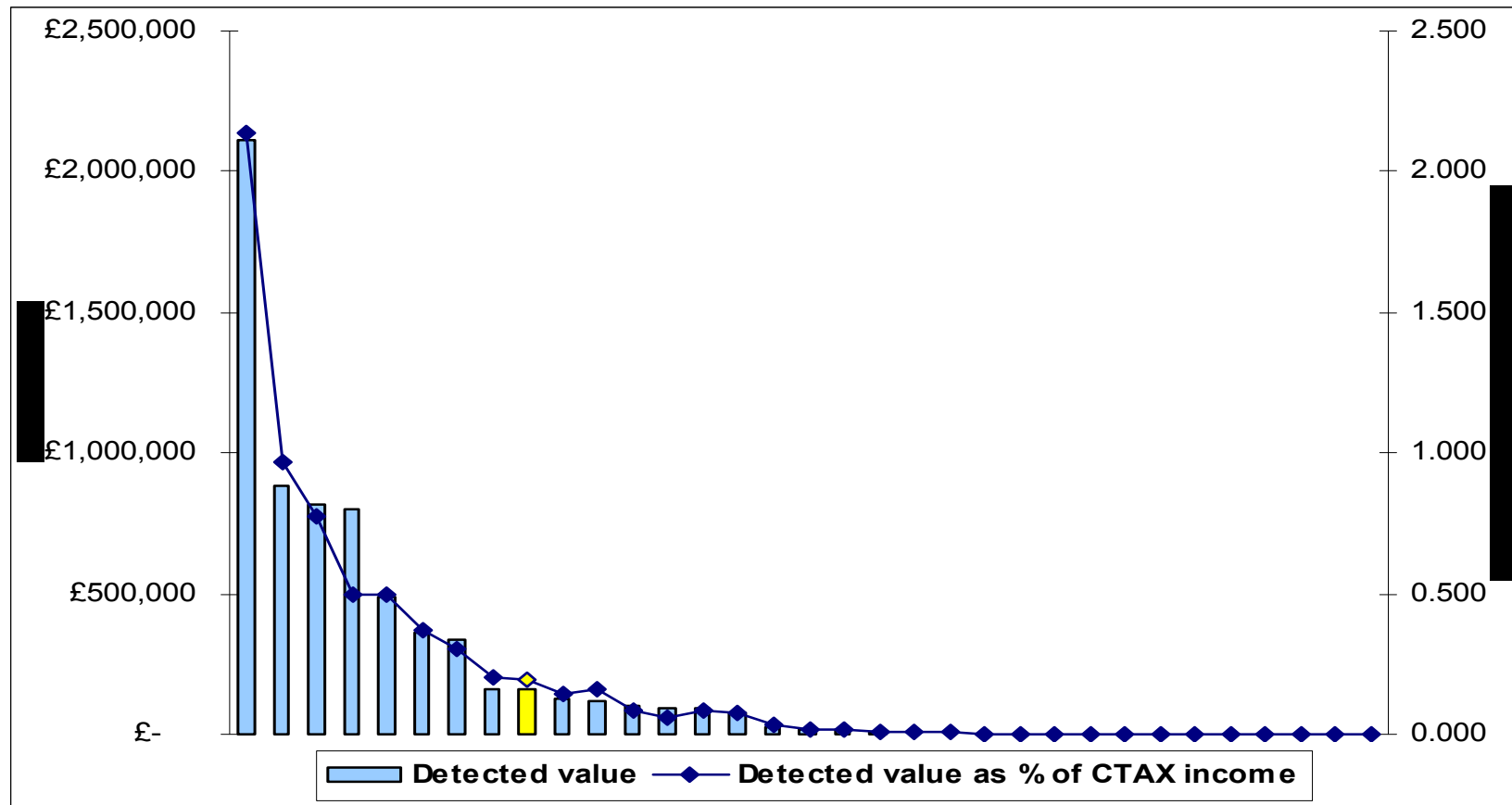




# London Boroughs 2012/13

## Council tax (CTAX) discount fraud

### Detected value and detected value as a percentage of council tax income



Tower Hamlets detected: 1,199 cases, valued at £161,482

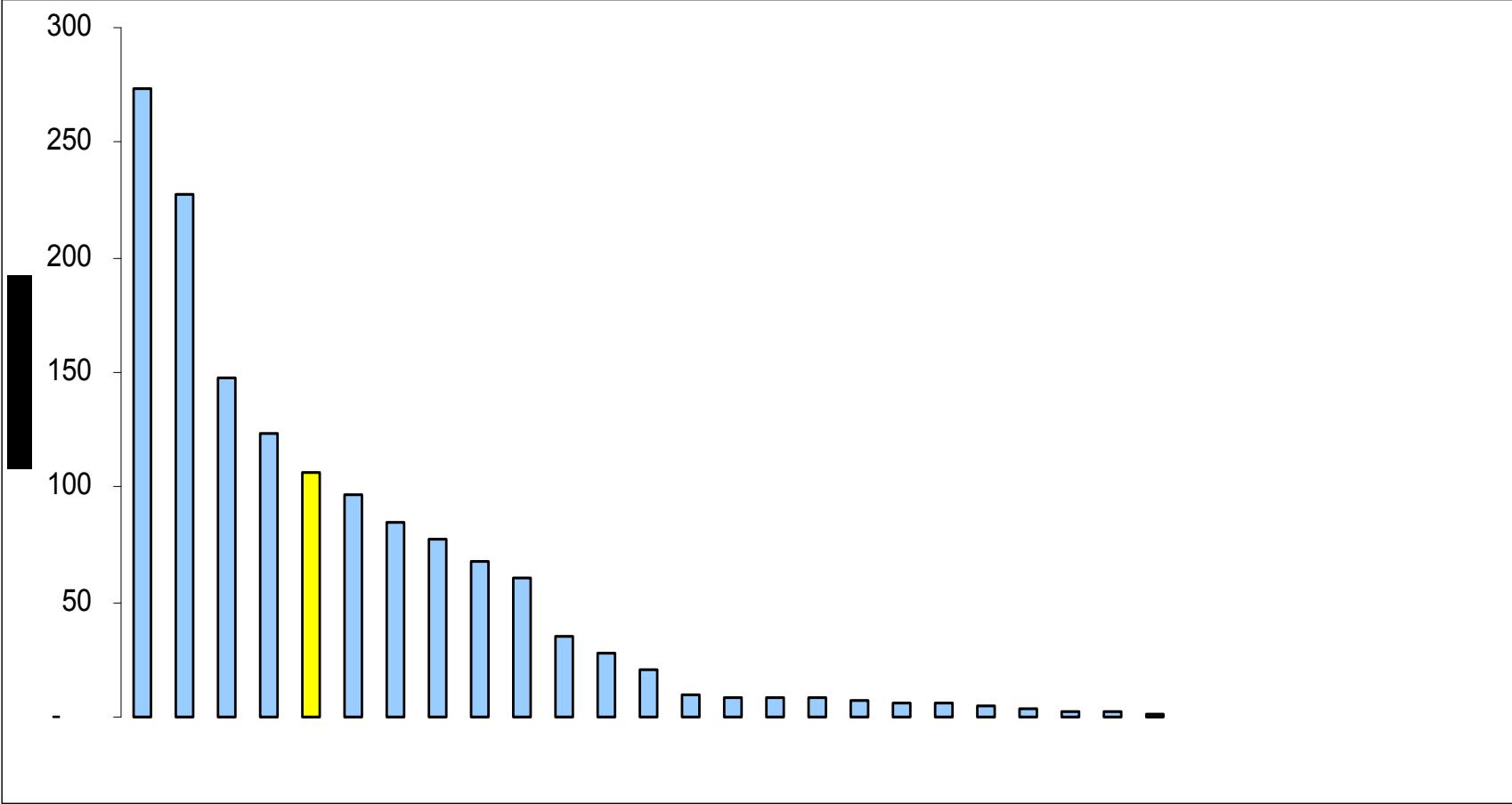
London average: 586 cases, valued at £201,451







# London Boroughs 2012/13 Disabled parking (Blue Badge) fraud Detected cases



Tower Hamlets detected: 107 cases

London average: 40 cases



# London Borough of Tower Hamlets

## Other frauds

- Procurement: no cases  
*(Ave per London Borough: 1 case valued at £11,695)*
- Insurance: no cases  
*(Ave per London Borough: 1 case valued at £35,274)*
- Social care: 1 case, valued at £25,000  
*(Ave per London Borough: 2 cases valued at £10,067)*
- Economic & Third sector: no cases  
*(Ave per London Borough: 1 case valued at £16,846)*
- Internal fraud: No cases  
*(Ave per London Borough: 10 cases valued at £302,255)*

*Correctly recording fraud levels is a central element in assessing fraud risk  
It is best practice to record the financial value of each detected case*

# Any questions?

