

Protecting the Public Purse

Fraud Briefing 2013

Brent London Borough Council



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

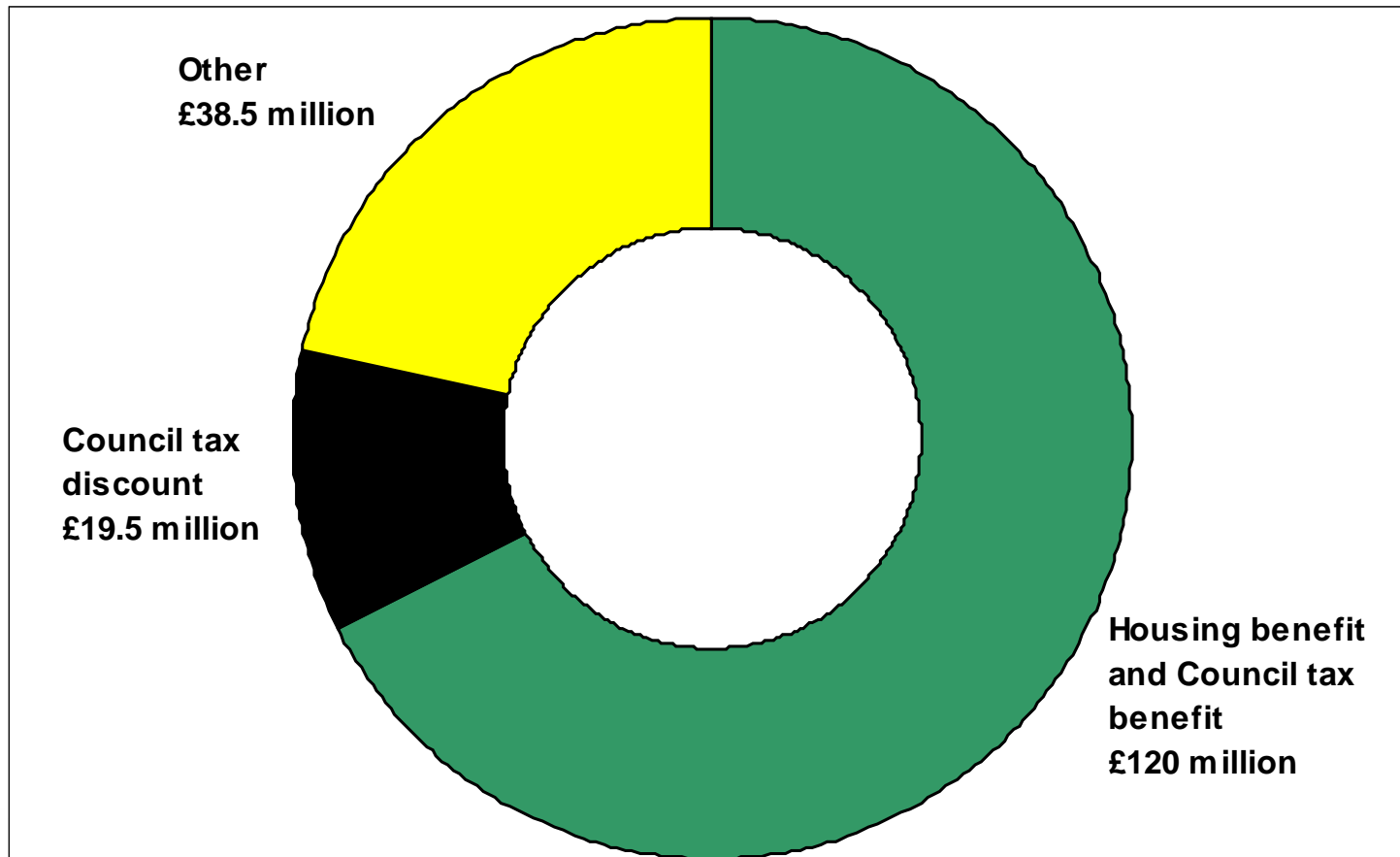


Purpose of Fraud Briefing at your council

- 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

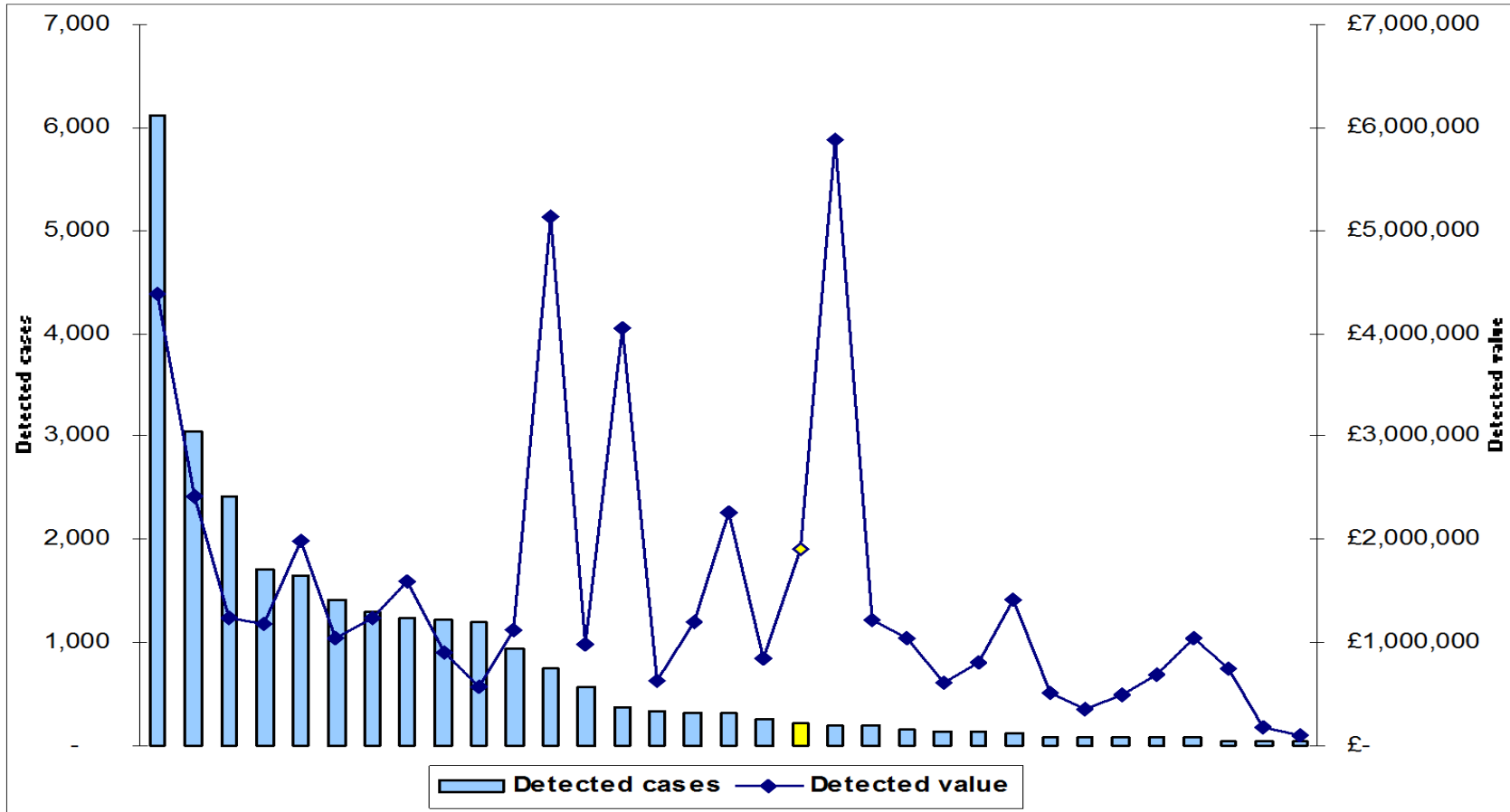
- Contextual and comparative information needed to interpret results
- Detected fraud is indicative, not definitive, of counter fraud performance (Prevention and deterrence should not be overlooked)
- No fraud detected does not mean no fraud committed (Fraud will always be attempted and even with the 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

How your council compares to other London Boroughs

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

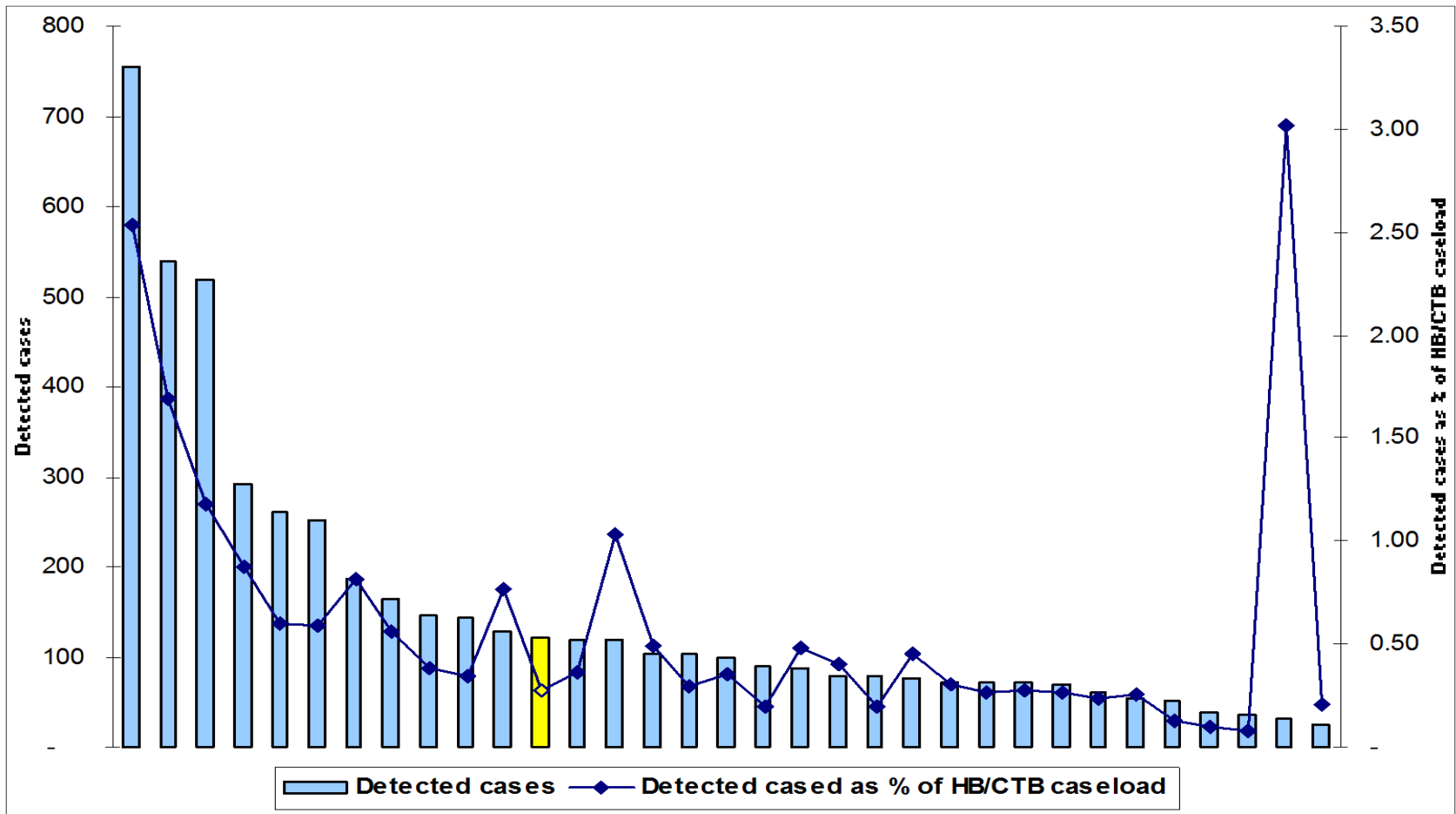


Brent detected: 223 cases, valued at £1,915,191

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



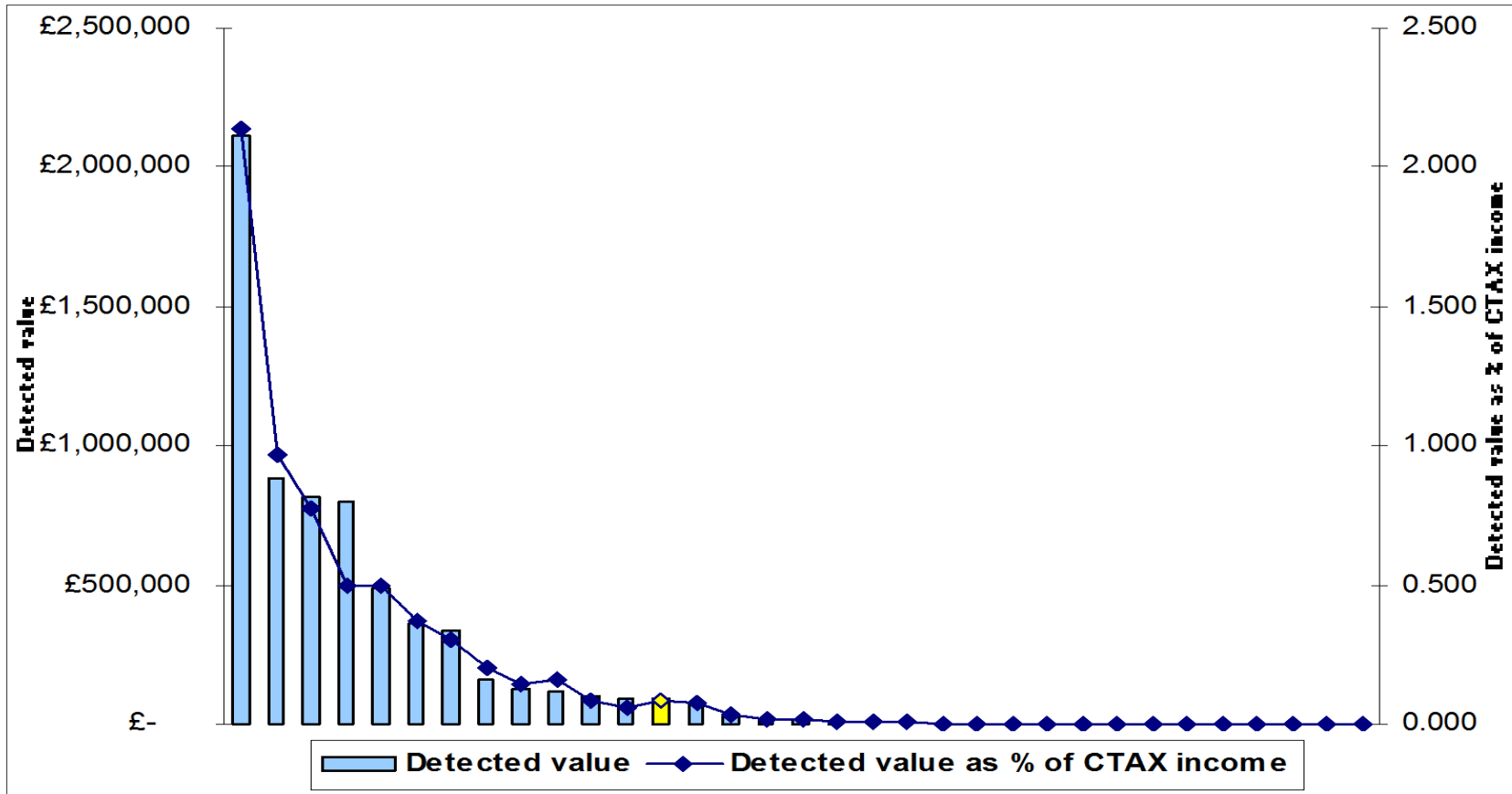
Brent detected: 121 cases, valued at £1,786,117

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



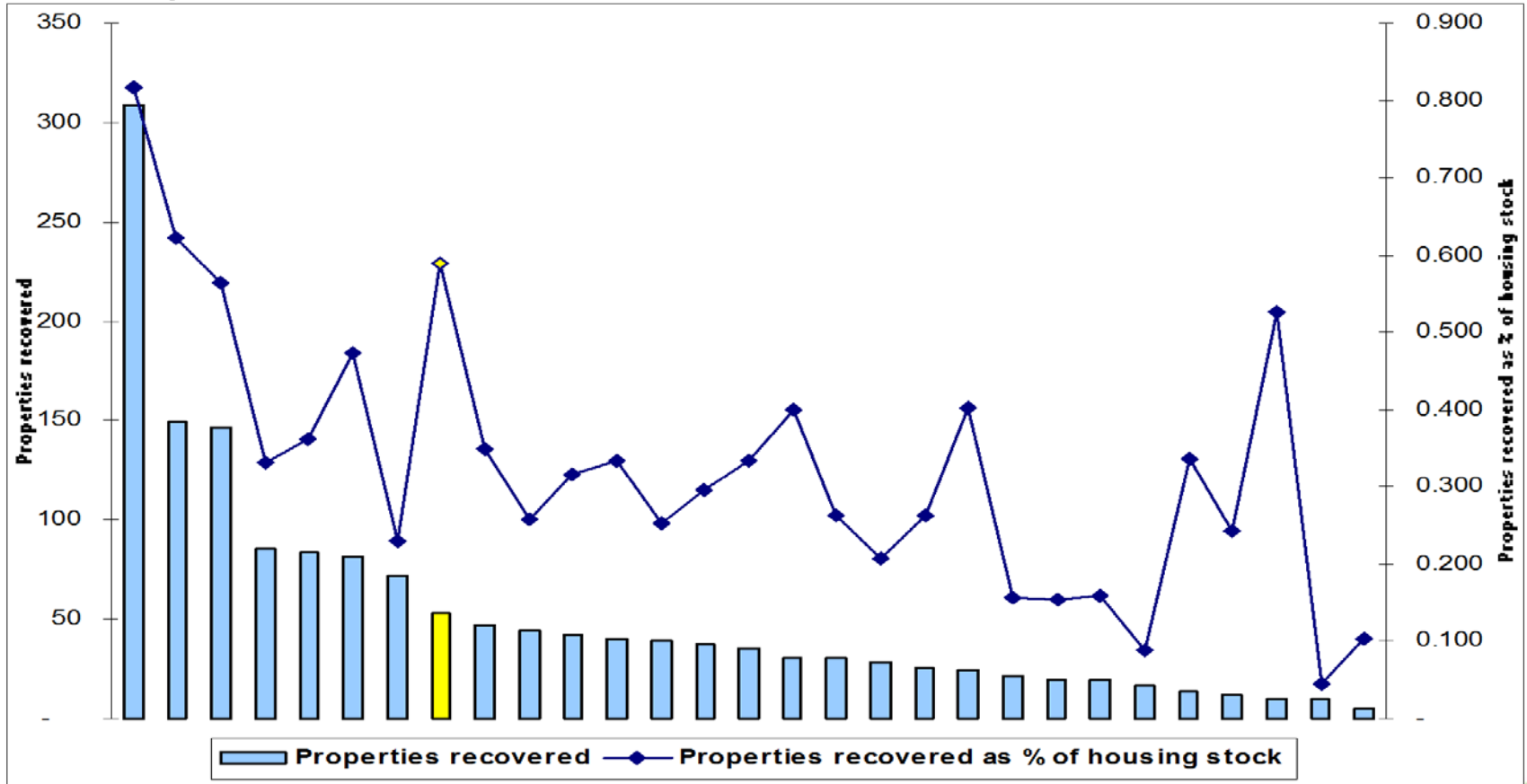
Brent detected: 86 cases, valued at £89,000

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

London Boroughs with housing stock 2012/13

Social housing fraud

Properties recovered and properties recovered as a percentage of housing stock



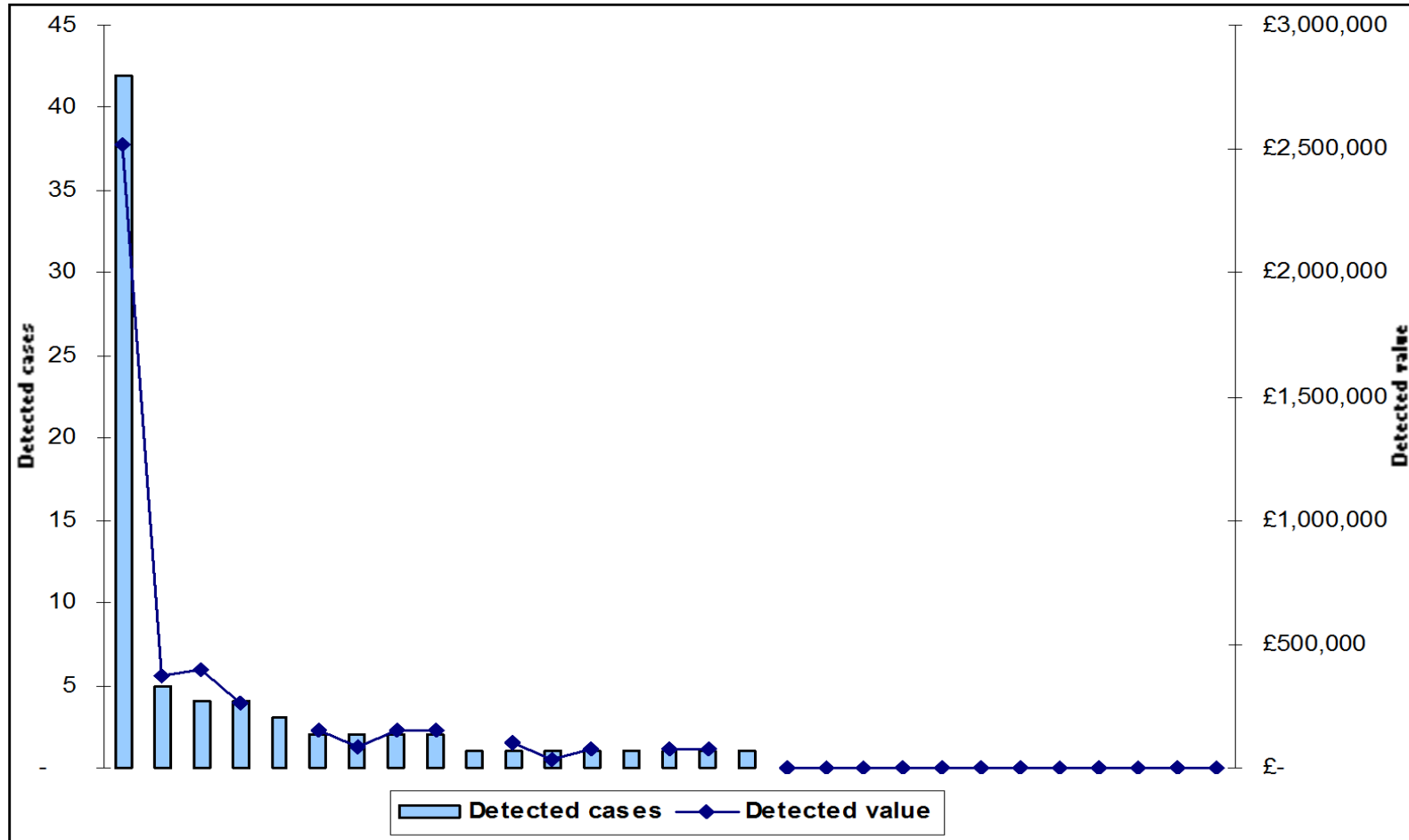
Brent recovered: 53 properties

London average: 53 properties

London Boroughs with housing stock 2012/13

Right to buy fraud

Detected cases and detected value



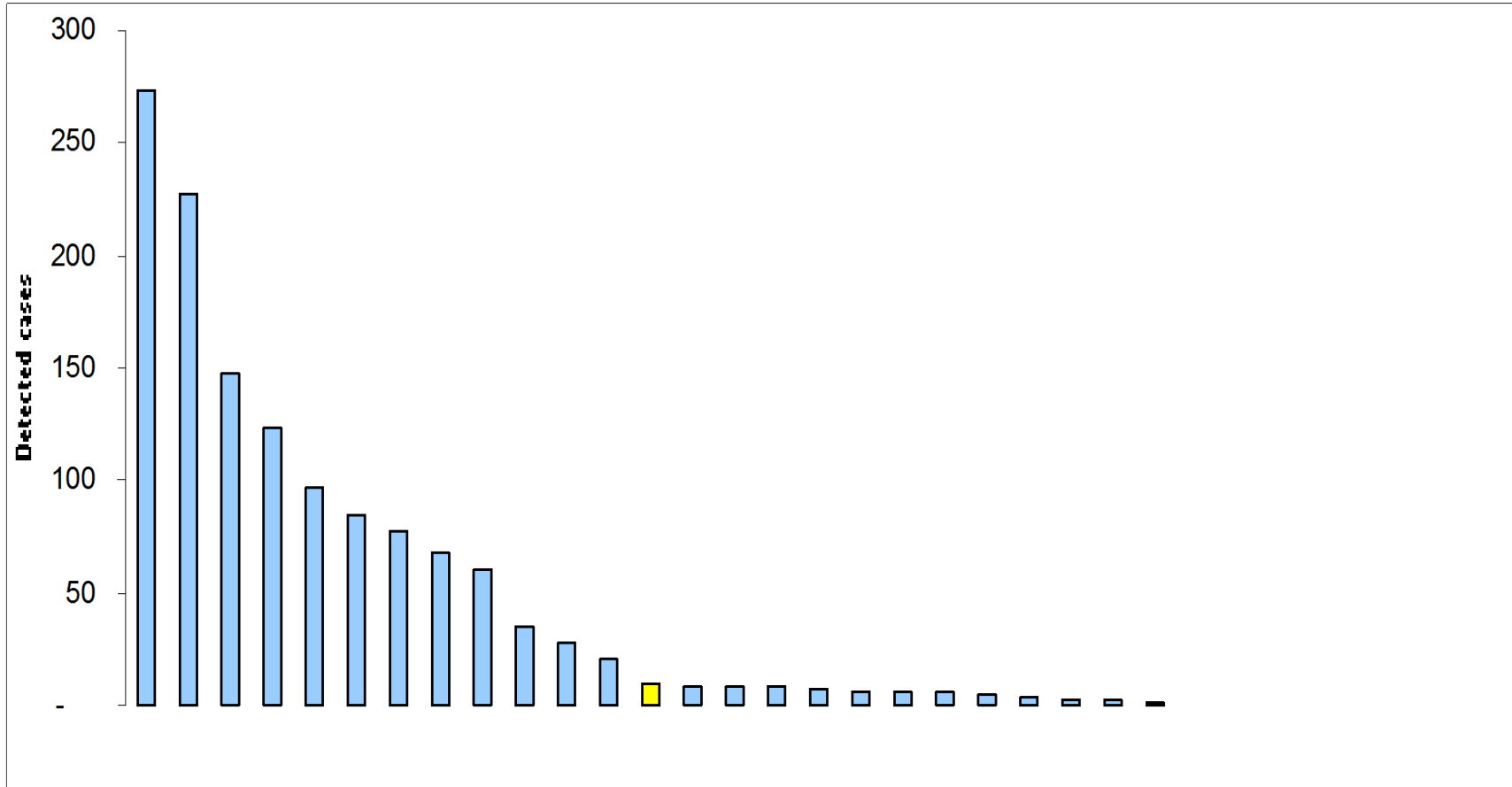
Brent detected: no cases

London average: 2 cases, valued at £134,976

London Boroughs 2012/13

Disabled parking (Blue Badge) fraud

Detected cases



Brent detected: 10 cases

London average: 40 cases

Brent London Borough Council

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 £26,774
(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: 9 cases, valued at £69,300
(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?

