

## APPENDIX 2

### Referrals by source

<b>¼ ending</b>	<b>Public</b>	<b>Data matching</b>	<b>Official source</b>	<b>Total</b>
June 2014	47	102	27	176
March 2014	49	83	46	178
December 2013	56	54	83	186
September 2013	47	62	79	188
June 2013	66	66	74	202
March 2013	46	184	89	312
December 2012	30	216	61	314
September 2012	55	242	83	380
June 2012	76	400	61	534
March 2012	78	231	103	396
December 2011	78	112	101	287
September 2011	79	131	99	309
June 2011	68	113	105	286

The number of referrals received through data-matching peaked in 2012 when the DWP identified cases where there had been no change to earnings and/or tax credits on claims for over 12 months.

The introduction of automated notification of changes to tax credits and DWP benefits has reduced the numbers of claims that would be identified if a current match was run under the same rules.

Benefit assessors are also encouraged to consider whether the change in tax credits is likely to have been triggered by a change in earnings and confirm current income.

This automation has also contributed to the reduction in official source referrals over time because these changes are being identified at the time they are taking place. Changes in DWP policy, mainly their abolition of the use of cautions as an alternative to prosecution has also resulted in a reduction in the numbers of cases DWP colleagues are investigating, meaning fewer joint working invitations being received.

The number of data-matching referrals has increased over the last 2 quarters mainly because the matches identifying possible undeclared capital and unchanged earnings have been re-introduced.