

National Fraud Initiative

Frequently asked questions

- Q Can I opt out of having my personal data used for this exercise?
A No, supply of the data to the Audit Commission is mandatory.
- Q How does this affect my rights under the Data Protection Act?
A The Data Protection Act allows for this type of activity under Section 29 for the purpose of preventing and detecting crime, and Section 35 disclosures required by law.
- Q Who will be looking at my personal data?
A It is possible that your data may not actually be viewed by anyone but it may be viewed by:
- The IT provider to tackle any technical problems or for quality checks;
 - The Audit Commission as part of the review of the Councils NFI activities;
 - Council Officers responsible for investigating matches.
- It is only data that has matched that is used for investigation, not all of the data supplied.
- Q How will you ensure my personal data is secure?
A All data is supplied to the Council's NFI Lead Officer through secure electronic transfer. The NFI Lead Officer then supplies this to the Audit Commission by uploading the information via a secure web site. Data matches received can only be accessed via the secure website, and only nominated officers have access to this.
- Q What happens if my personal data is matched?
A Data matches received are reviewed to determine if there is a need for further investigation, in many cases there will not be.
- Q What is the benefit of the NFI?
A This type of data matching allows us to identify cases of potential fraud. Suitable cases are then investigated and if fraud is proven then the Council will pursue the offenders, which will include recovery of any losses.