



## **National Fraud Initiative (NFI) Level 2 - Fair processing notice**

Avon Fire and Rescue Service is required by law to protect the public funds it administers. It may share information provided to it with other bodies responsible for auditing or administering public funds, in order to prevent and detect fraud.

The Cabinet Office appoints the auditor to audit the accounts of Avon Fire and Rescue Service. It is also responsible for carrying out data matching exercises.

Data matching involves comparing computer records held by one body against other computer records held by the same or another body to see how far they match. This is usually personal information. Computerised data matching allows potentially fraudulent claims and payments to be identified. Where a match is found it may indicate that there is an inconsistency which requires further investigation. No assumption can be made as to whether there is fraud, error or other explanation until an investigation is carried out.

The Cabinet Office currently requires us to participate in a data matching exercise to assist in the prevention and detection of fraud. We are required to provide particular sets of data to the Cabinet Office for matching for each exercise, and these are set out in the Cabinet Office's guidance, which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-fraud-initiative>

The use of data by the Cabinet Office in a data matching exercise is carried out with statutory authority under its powers in Part 6 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. It does not require the consent of the individuals concerned under the Data Protection Act 1998.

Data matching by the Cabinet Office is subject to a Code of Practice. This may be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/code-of-data-matching-practice-for-national-fraud-initiative>

For further information on the Cabinet Office's legal powers and the reasons why it matches particular information, see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fair-processing-national-fraud-initiative>

National Fraud Initiative (NFI)  
Level 3 - Privacy notice

The Cabinet Office conducts data matching exercises to assist in the prevention and detection of fraud. This is one of the ways in which the Minister for the Cabinet Office takes responsibility within government for public sector efficiency and reform.

Data matching involves comparing sets of data, such as the payroll or benefits records of a body, against other records held by the same or another body to see how far they match. The data is usually personal information. The data matching allows potentially fraudulent claims and payments to be identified. Where a match is found it may indicate that there is an inconsistency that requires further investigation. No assumption can be made as to whether there is fraud, error or other explanation until an investigation is carried out.

The processing of data by the Cabinet Office in a data matching exercise is carried out with statutory authority under its powers in Part 6 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. It does not require the consent of the individuals concerned under the Data Protection Act 1998 or the GDPR.

All bodies participating in the Cabinet Office's data matching exercises receive a report of matches that they should investigate, so as to detect instances of fraud, over- or under-payments and other errors, to take remedial action and update their records accordingly.

### **Legal basis**

From 1 April 2015 the National Fraud Initiative has been conducted using the data matching powers bestowed on the Minister for the Cabinet Office by Part 6 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (LAAA). Previous exercises were conducted by the Audit Commission under Part IIA of the Audit Commission Act 1998.

Under the LAAA legislation:

1. The Cabinet Office may carry out data matching exercises for the purpose of assisting in the prevention and detection of fraud.
2. The Cabinet Office may require certain bodies (as set out in the Act) to provide data for data matching exercises
3. Bodies may participate in its data matching exercises on a voluntary basis where the Cabinet Office considers it appropriate. Where they do so, the Act states that there is no breach of confidentiality and generally removes other restrictions in providing the data to the Cabinet Office. The requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998, however, continue to apply, so data cannot be voluntarily provided if to do so would be a breach of the Data Protection Act 1998. In addition sharing of patient data on a voluntary basis is prohibited.



4. The Cabinet Office may disclose the results of data matching exercises where this assists in the prevention and detection of fraud, including disclosure to bodies that have provided the data and to auditors that it appoints as well as in pursuance of a duty under an enactment.
5. The Cabinet Office may disclose both data provided for data matching and the results of data matching to the Auditor General for Wales, the Comptroller and Auditor General for Northern Ireland, the Auditor General for Scotland, the Accounts Commission for Scotland and Audit Scotland, for the purposes of preventing and detecting fraud.
6. Wrongful disclosure of data obtained for the purposes of data matching by any person is a criminal offence. A person found guilty of the offence is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.
7. The Cabinet Office may charge a fee to a body participating in a data matching exercise and must set a scale of fees for bodies required to participate.
8. The Cabinet Office must prepare and publish a Code of Practice. All bodies conducting or participating in its data matching exercises, including the Cabinet Office itself, must have regard to the Code.
9. The Cabinet Office may report publicly on its data matching activities.

### **Bodies required to provide or which volunteer data for matching**

Currently, the Cabinet Office requires the following bodies to provide data:

- district and county councils
- London and metropolitan boroughs
- unitary authorities
- police authorities
- fire and rescue authorities
- pension authorities
- NHS Trusts and strategic health authorities
- Foundation Trusts
- Clinical Commissioning Groups
- passenger transport authorities
- passenger transport executives
- waste authorities
- Greater London Authority and its functional bodies



In addition, the following bodies provide data to the Cabinet Office for matching on a voluntary basis:

- private sector pension schemes (various)
- Home Office
- Metropolitan Police – Operation Amberhill
- special health authorities
- housing associations
- probation authorities
- national park authorities
- central government pensions schemes
- Insurance Fraud Bureau
- central government departments
- Companies House
- other private organisations/companies

### **The data that is matched and the reasons for matching it**

For information describing which datasets are matched by the Cabinet Office please refer to the Cabinet Office's guidance available on this website. The document NFI match types per participating body summarises the various match types for each particular type of participating organisation.

### **Code of data matching practice**

Data matching by the Cabinet Office is subject to a code of practice.

### **Further information**

View more information about the Cabinet Office data matching exercises. You can also read national reports on the NFI published before 1 April 2015 by the Audit Commission and subsequent Cabinet Office reports.

Alternatively you can write to:

Head of the NFI  
Red zone, 4th floor,  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London, SW1 2HQ

Email: [nfiqueries@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:nfiqueries@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)