

National Fraud Initiative – Data Matching Exercise (Level 2 Notice)

Cambridgeshire County Council is required by law to protect the public funds it administers. In order to do this we may share information provided to us with other bodies responsible for auditing or administering public funds, in order to prevent and detect fraud.

The Audit Commission currently requires Cambridgeshire County Council to participate in a data matching exercise to assist in the prevention and detection of fraud, “The National Fraud Initiative” (NFI).

Data matching involves comparing computer records held by one body against other computer records held by the same or another body, this is usually personal information. Computerised data matching allows potentially fraudulent claims and payments to be identified. Where a match is found it indicates 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 and investigation is carried out. In some cases, matches may indicate that a service user is not receiving all the help they are entitled to.

Cambridgeshire County Council is required to provide particular sets of data to the Audit Commission for matching as part of the NFI exercise. You can find a list of the data sets provided by Councils and other public bodies at the following website:

www.audit-commission.gov.uk/nfi/dataspec/index.asp .

The use of data by the Audit Commission in a data matching exercise is carried out with statutory authority under its powers in Part 2A of the Audit Commission Act 1998. It does not require the consent of the individuals concerned under the Data Protection Act 1998 in order for the data to be shared with the Audit Commission.

Data matching by the Audit Commission is subject to a Code of Practice which must be followed by all participants. This can be found at:

www.audit-commission.gov.uk/nfi/codeofdmp.asp .

For further information on the Audit Commission’s legal powers and the reasons why it matches particular information, see the [Level 3](#) Notice on the Audit Commission’s website or contact Peter Yetzes, Head of NFI on 0844 798 222 or, email: nfiqueries@audit-commission.gov.uk .

If you have any queries about Cambridgeshire County Council’s participation in the National Fraud Initiative please contact Richard Wood, Principal Auditor on 01223 699131 or, Email richard.wood@cambridgeshire.gov.uk .