

Privacy Notice for National Fraud Initiative 2022-23

Purpose

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 data protection legislation or the UK 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 of processing

The legal basis for processing your personal data is that processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the data controller.

The National Fraud Initiative is 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).

Under the LAAA legislation

The Cabinet Office may carry out data matching exercises for the purpose of assisting in the prevention and detection of fraud.

The Cabinet Office may require certain bodies (as set out in the Act) to provide data for data matching exercises

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 legislation, however, continue to apply, so data cannot be voluntarily provided if to do so would be a breach of data protection legislation. In addition, sharing of patient data on a voluntary basis is prohibited.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

The Cabinet Office may report publicly on its data matching activities.

Special category data is personal data revealing racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, or trade union membership, and the processing of genetic data, biometric data for the purpose of uniquely identifying a natural person, data concerning health or data concerning a natural person's sex life or sexual orientation. The legal basis for processing your special category personal data is:

Article 9(g) UK GDPR: processing is necessary for reasons of substantial public interest, on the basis of Union or Member State law which shall be proportionate to the aim pursued, respect the essence of the right to data protection and provide for suitable and specific measures to safeguard the fundamental rights and the interests of the data subject.

The Cabinet Office conducts data matching exercises to assist in the prevention and detection of fraud. 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.

The Cabinet Office's legal basis for processing your criminal convictions data is paragraphs 6 and 10 of [schedule 1 to the Data Protection Act 2018](#).

Recipients

Your personal data will be shared by us as necessary for the purposes of preventing and detecting fraud with:

- The Auditor General for Wales
- The Comptroller and Auditor General for Northern Ireland
- The Auditor General for Scotland
- The Accounts Commission for Scotland
- Audit Scotland

And with mandatory participants who include:

- district and county councils
- London and metropolitan boroughs
- unitary authorities
- police authorities
- fire and rescue authorities
- pension authorities
- NHS Trusts
- Foundation Trusts
- Integrated Care Boards
- 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
- Other private organisations/companies/credit reference agencies

We will share records containing personal data with HMRC. These will be matched against HMRC records and additional HMRC information appended and fed back to the NFI. The HMRC matching will seek to identify persons at the address provided and relevant income related information. Data matching services are then provided to the NFI by the Department for Work and Pensions, and by our IT Supplier using only UK Data Centres.

The data that is matched and the reasons for matching it

For information summarising the various match types for each particular type of participating organisation and the purpose of the matching, please refer to the document [NFI match types per participating body](#). We also provide the following services:

ReCheck

ReCheck is a flexible data matching service which complements the national exercise. This service allows NFI participant bodies to re-perform existing data matching, at a time that suits them, by uploading their organisation's datasets for internal matching.

AppCheck

NFI participants can use this service at the point of application to check against NFI data to help verify people's identity or if they have left out relevant information that might affect their entitlement to a benefit, service or employment.

FraudHub

Allows NFI participant bodies, who want to work together, to regularly and effectively screen their collective data in order to prevent errors in processing payments and to reduce fraud.

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 by the Cabinet Office.

Your rights

You have the right to:

- ✓ request information about how your personal data are processed, and to request a copy of that personal data
- ✓ request that any inaccuracies in your personal data are rectified without delay
- ✓ request that any incomplete personal data are completed, including by means of a supplementary statement
- ✓ request that your personal data are erased if there is no longer a justification for them to be processed.
- ✓ in certain circumstances (for example, where accuracy is contested) to request that the processing of your personal data is restricted

Where the processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the data controller: You have the right

to object to the processing of your personal data. This right does not apply where your data is disclosed to us under a legal obligation under Paragraph 2 of Schedule 9 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Complaints

If you consider that your personal data has been misused or mishandled, you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner, who is an independent regulator. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Email: casework@ico.org.uk

Any complaint to the Information Commissioner is without prejudice to your right to seek redress through the courts.

Contact details

The data controller for your personal data is the Cabinet Office. The contact details for the data controller are:

Head of the NFI

1 Horse Guards Road

London

SW1A 2HQ

Email: nfiqueries@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

The contact details for the data controller's Data Protection Officer (DPO) are:

Stephen Jones

DPO

Cabinet Office

70 Whitehall

London

SW1A 2AS

Email: dpo@cabinetoffice.gov.uk