

NATIONAL FRAUD INITIATIVE 2016/17

The CCG has a duty to protect the public funds it administers and as such participates in the National Fraud Initiative. This is an electronic data matching exercise conducted by the Cabinet Office, under statutory powers, for the purposes of preventing and detecting fraudulent and erroneous payments from the public purse. The exercise is run every two years.

The Cabinet Office's 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.

Participation in the data matching exercise assists in the prevention and detection of fraud and involves the provision of particular sets of data to the Minister for 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/guidance/national-fraud-initiative-public-sector-data-requirements>

The use of data by the Cabinet Office in a data matching exercise is carried out with statutory authority under 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/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/401669/Code_of_data_matching_practice_July08.pdf

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

The key contact for the CCG is Steven Moss, Counter Fraud Manager, and if you have any queries regarding the exercise he can be contacted by:

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