

City of London & the ‘National Fraud Initiative’

This City of London 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 Audit Commission appoints the auditor to audit the accounts of this authority. 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. 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 Audit Commission currently requires us to participate in data matching exercises to assist in the prevention and detection of fraud. This is part of what is known as the ‘National Fraud Initiative’. We are required to provide particular sets of data to the Audit Commission for matching for each exercise, and these are set out in the Audit Commission’s handbooks, which can be found at www.audit-commission.gov.uk/nfi.

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.

Data matching by the Audit Commission is subject to a Code of Practice. This may be found at www.audit-commission.gov.uk/nfi/codeofdmp.

For further information on the Audit Commission’s legal powers and the reasons why it matches particular information, see the Audit Commission’s Data Protection Notice at <http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/nfi/fptext.asp>; or contact the Head of NFI (National Fraud Initiative) on 0844 798 2222, or email nfiqueries@audit-commission.gov.uk.

If you would like to contact the City of London Corporation directly with any enquiries about the data sharing and matching exercises, here are our contact details:

Audit Officer (NFI), Chamberlain's Department, City of London Corporation, PO Box 270, Guildhall, London EC2P 2EJ.

Tel: 020-7332 1278.

Email: nfi@cityoflondon.gov.uk

If you have any queries about how your personal information is processed by the City of London, please visit our Data Protection Enquiries webpage at:

<http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/dp>