National Fraud Initiative (NFI)

We are required by law to protect the public funds we administer. We may share information provided with other bodies responsible for auditing or administering public funds, in order to prevent and detect fraud. The Cabinet Office is 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 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 General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). For further information on the reasons why it matches particular information, see [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fair-processing-national-fraud-initiative/fair-processing-level-3-full-text](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fair-processing-national-fraud-initiative/fair-processing-level-3-full-text)

For further information on data matching at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King’s Lynn NHS Trust please contact Julie McCarthy, Counter Fraud Specialist, on 07436268383 or via email Julie.mccarthy4@nhs.net. Further information on how the NFI has assisted the NHS and other public sector organisations can also be found at [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-fraud-initiative-case-studies/nfi-public-sector-case-studies](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-fraud-initiative-case-studies/nfi-public-sector-case-studies)