

National Fraud Initiative 2014/15

The following Data Protection Act notification has been provided by the Audit Commission in relation to the National Fraud Initiative. Warwickshire County Council will be providing data for this exercise during October 2014. No action is required by either members of the public or employees of the Authority.

Warwickshire County Council is required by law to protect the public funds it administers. We may use any of the information you provide to us for the prevention and detection of fraud. We may also share this information with other bodies that are responsible for auditing or administering public funds including the Audit Commission, the Department for Work and Pensions, other local authorities, HM Revenue and Customs, and the Police.

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 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 Audit Commission currently requires us to participate in a data matching exercise to assist in the prevention and detection of fraud. We are required to provide particular sets of data to the Audit Commission for matching for each exercise. All information will be transmitted securely to the Audit Commission via an encrypted connection. This is set out in the Audit Commission's guidance, which can be found at <http://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 <http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/national-fraud-initiative/code-of-data-matching-practice/>

For further information on the Audit Commission's legal powers and the reasons why it matches particular information, see <http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/fairprocessing>

For further information on data matching at this authority contact:

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