

The following information applies to **Protecting public funds - National Fraud Initiative**

By law, we are required to protect public funds we administer. To do this, we can share information with other bodies responsible for auditing or administering public funds, or where undertaking a public function, to prevent and detect fraud.

The Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited appoints the auditor who inspects our accounts.

The Cabinet Office is responsible for carrying out data matching exercises, which compares 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 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.

We are required to provide particular sets of data to the Cabinet Office for matching for each exercise, and these are set out in their [guidance](#).

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](#). For further information on the Cabinet Office's legal powers and the reasons why it matches particular information, see www.gov.uk