

# National Fraud Initiative 2010/11

**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 undertaking this exercise during September. 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. 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 an auditor to audit the accounts of Warwickshire County Council. The Audit Commission is also responsible for carrying out a data matching exercise against other computer records held by the Council or another body. These records are usually personal information. Computerised data matching allows potentially fraudulent claims and payments to be identified. Where a match is found it indicates that there is an inconsistency that requires further investigation. No assumption can be made as to whether there is fraud, error or another explanation until an investigation is carried out.

The Audit Commission currently requires us to participate in this 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 each exercise, these are set out in the Audit Commission's handbooks, which can be found at <http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/nfi>. All data will be transmitted to the Audit Commission via a secure encrypted connection.

The use of data by the Audit Commission in this 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 can be found at <http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/nfi/codeofdmp.asp>

For detailed information on the Audit Commission's legal powers and the reasons why it matches particular information, please see <http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/nfi/fptext.asp>.  
or for more general enquires please contact:

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