

Data Matching Statement

The 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 Cabinet Office is also responsible for carrying out data matching exercises which involve 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. Where necessary the Council will update or revise the personal data it holds.

The Cabinet Office currently requires us to participate in a data matching exercises to assist in the prevention and detection of fraud. We are required to provide particular sets of data for matching for each exercise, and these are set out in the its' guidance, which can be found at www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-fraud-initiative

The use 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 GDPR. Data matching by the Cabinet Office is subject to a Code of Practice. This may be found at www.gov.uk/government/publications/code-of-data-matching-practice-for-national-fraud-initiative

For further information on the Cabinet Office's legal powers and the reasons why it matches particular information, see www.gov.uk/government/publications/fair-processing-national-fraud-initiative/fair-processing-level-3-full-text

For further information on Council data matching contact Simon Straker, Internal Audit Manager, 01484 221000.