

Benefit Fraud - Fair Processing Notice

From May 2010 until further notice, Blaby District Council will be taking part in a benefit fraud detection scheme involving electronic data matching, in conjunction with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

Schemes such as this which involve electronic data matching are subject to the conditions of the The Data Protection Act.

In addition, Blaby District Council is also required to publish the following Fair Processing Notice, which explains to benefit claimants how and why information about them will be exchanged between organisations involved in the benefit fraud data-matching scheme.

Benefit fraud electronic data matching - Fair Processing Notice for the guidance of benefit claimants

Blaby District Council is required by law to protect the public funds it administers. It may give and receive information to and from other organisations including bodies responsible for auditing or administering public funds, in order to check the accuracy of information and to prevent and detect fraud.

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 may be 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.

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, and these are set out in the Audit Commission's guidance, which can be found at [The Audit Commission - National Fraud Initiative](#).

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 [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 [National Fraud Initiative - Fair processing notice](#).

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit data will also be supplied to the Department of Work and Pensions who will transfer a sub extract of the data by PGP (encrypted e-mail) to Experian (Credit Reference Agency) for the purpose to carry out a data matching exercise, again in order to prevent and detect fraud. Experian will delete this data after 18 months.

For further information on data matching at Blaby District Council please contact the Legal and Information Management Officer on 0116 272 7709.