



Fraud Prevention Privacy Notice

Who will be responsible for my data once it is collected?

Warrington Borough Council

Why do you need my information?

We use the information we collect for the purpose of fraud prevention. This could include the use of information you have previously provided to the council for other purposes.

What allows you to use my information?

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 the Data Protection Act 2018 or the GDPR.

Data matching by the Cabinet Office is subject to a Code of practice.

- [Code of data matching practice for the National Fraud Initiative](#)

Further information on the Cabinet Office's legal powers and the reasons why it matches particular information are provided on the Gov.UK website.

- [National fraud initiative privacy notice](#)

We are required by law to protect the public funds that we administer. In order to achieve this could include sharing information you have provided with other bodies responsible for working to prevent and detect fraud. This is done as part of the National Fraud Initiative (NFI)

National Fraud Initiative (NFI)

The National Fraud Initiative (NFI) is intended to detect fraudulent and incorrect payments from the funds provided by the Government. The work is designed to help reduce the level of many types of fraud including (but not limited to):

- housing benefit fraud
- payroll and pension fraud
- housing tenancy fraud.

This is done through data matching which involves comparing computer records held by one body against other computer records held by the same or another body to see whether the

information provided matches. For example, information you provide to the Housing Benefit team will be checked against information you provide to our council tax team to confirm if it matches (if required).

The information used is usually personal information such as name and address but is not limited to this and other personal information will be provided. This data matching allows potentially fraudulent claims and payments to be identified.

Where a match is found it indicates that there may be an inconsistency which may require further investigation. No assumption can be made as to whether there is fraud, error or other explanation until an investigation is carried out.

The Cabinet Office currently requires us to participate in this NFI data matching exercise to assist in the prevention and detection of fraud. We are required to provide particular sets of data to the Cabinet Office for matching for each exercise, and these are set out by the Cabinet Office. Details of this data matching can be found on the Gov.UK website below.

- [National Fraud Initiative: public sector data specifications](#)

Once the Cabinet Office has completed the data matching exercise, the results are shared with us; we then investigate any inconsistencies to determine whether there is or have been fraud taking place.

Other fraud prevention and detection work

The primary objective of the council's counter fraud, bribery and corruption strategy is to ensure the prevention of fraud and corrupt acts and to ensure that any instances or allegations of these are investigated and dealt with effectively. As part of this strategy we conduct a programme of pro-active counter fraud reviews into transactions and records held across different business areas, where required. They are designed specifically to identify unusual, incorrect or potentially fraudulent transactions.

If required we will use information including personal information to prevent and detect fraud in any of our systems which could involve the supply of information to credit reference agencies or other external bodies for such purposes. Information held or received may also be used to verify information given for application purposes. Information will be used under Schedule 2 Para 2(1)(a)(b) of the Data Protection Act 2018 (previously Section 29(3)) and Schedule 2 Para 5(3) of the Data Protection Act 2018 (previously Section 35) for the prevention and detection of crime.

Who will my information be shared with?

Information will be shared with but is not limited to:

- Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
- Housing partners (Trusts and Associations)
- Law enforcement agencies

Do i have to provide this information and what will happen if i don't?

The information we provide to the Cabinet Office is taken from information you have previously submitted to the Council in other areas, for example the payment of Council Tax or Housing Benefit or an application for a taxi licence or market trader. As a result, you are not required to provide any additional information.

How long will you keep this data for and why?

The information we provide to the National Fraud Initiative is information you have provided to the council for other purposes and that information will be retained in line with the requirements of those purposes as you were informed at the time. Such information is not retained separately once submission to the NFI has been carried out or where there is no identified suspicion of wrongdoing.

How will my information be stored?

Information provided to the NFI is stored on a secure web based application.

What rights do i have when it comes to my data?

Under the General Data Protection Regulation, you might have more rights about what happens with your data. As different rights apply in different situations each request will be assessed on a case by case basis.

You have the right under the Data Protection Act 2018 (General Data Protection Regulation) to request a copy of your information and to know what it is used for and how it has been shared. This is called the right of subject access.

To request a copy of your data or ask questions about how it is used, please look at our webpages on [requests for information](#).

Who can i complain to if i am unhappy about how my data is used?

If you are not satisfied with how your request has been dealt with, or if the information held about you is incorrect, you should email or write to Warrington Borough Council outlining your concerns.

If you then wish to make a complaint then please contact us using one of the methods below:

Use the [online complaints form](#).

- Email us at contact@warrington.gov.uk
- Phone us on: 01925 443322
- Write to us at:
 - Contact Warrington, East Annex, Town Hall, Sankey Street, Warrington, WA1 1UH

- Visit us at: Contact Warrington, 1 Time Square, Warrington, WA1 2NT

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner's Office using the following details: -

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF
Telephone: 0303 123 1113
Website: www.ico.org.uk

Will this information be used to take automated decisions about me?

Information is used to data match information from different sources in order to highlight any areas of concern, decisions based on these results are not made automatically and human interaction is required in order to analyse any provided results.

Will my data be transferred abroad and why?

No, information relating to our submission to the NFI will not be transferred abroad.