

National Fraud Initiative 2026-27

Privacy Notice

Northern Regional College participates in the National Fraud Initiative (NFI), a data matching exercise undertaken by the Comptroller and Auditor General for Northern Ireland (C&AG) to assist in the prevention and detection of fraud.

The College is required to protect the public funds it administers. As part of this responsibility, information held by the College may be shared for data matching purposes with bodies responsible for auditing or administering public funds.

What is data matching?

Data matching involves comparing computer records held by one organisation against records held by the same or another organisation to identify matches or inconsistencies.

The process involves automated comparison of personal information.

A match does not mean that fraud or error has occurred. It identifies an inconsistency which may require further consideration or investigation. No assumption will be made as to whether fraud, error or another explanation exists until the circumstances have been considered.

Why does the College participate?

The C&AG conducts data matching exercises under statutory powers contained in the Audit and Accountability (Northern Ireland) Order 2003, as amended by the Serious Crime Act 2007.

Northern Regional College will provide the datasets required of it for the NFI 2026-27 exercise in accordance with the data specifications issued for the exercise.

The Public Sector Fraud Authority carries out key aspects of the NFI exercise on behalf of the C&AG, including the collection and processing of data. Data may also be matched across participating public bodies and jurisdictions within the UK for the purposes permitted by the relevant legislation.

Legal basis

The processing of personal information for the NFI is carried out under statutory authority and does not rely upon the consent of the individuals concerned.

The legal basis for processing personal data is that it is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority, in accordance with Article 6(1)(e) of the UK General Data Protection Regulation and section 8 of the Data Protection Act 2018.

Where special category or criminal offence data is processed, the additional requirements of the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 will apply.

How will information be used?

Information provided by Northern Regional College will be used for data matching to assist in the prevention and detection of fraud.

Where a match is identified, relevant information may be returned to the College for review and, where appropriate, investigation.

The College will consider matches on a risk basis. A data match will not, by itself, be treated as evidence that fraud has occurred.

Data matching undertaken by the C&AG is governed by the statutory **Code of Data Matching Practice**.

Your rights

Individuals have rights in relation to the processing of their personal information under data protection legislation. These include, subject to applicable legal exemptions, rights relating to access, rectification, restriction and erasure of personal information.

Further information about these rights and how Northern Regional College processes personal information is available through the College's data protection and privacy information.

Further information

Further information about the National Fraud Initiative, including the C&AG's NFI Privacy Notice, the Code of Data Matching Practice and information about the legal basis for data matching, is available from the Northern Ireland Audit Office:

www.niauditoffice.gov.uk/national-fraud-initiative

Northern Regional College contact

For further information about Northern Regional College's participation in the National Fraud Initiative, contact:

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