



Privacy Notice – National Fraud Initiative

Background

North West Regional College ('the College') is required by law to protect the public funds it administers. The Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) of the Northern Ireland Audit Office requires the College to participate in a data matching exercise to assist in the prevention and detection of fraud. This data matching exercise is called the National Fraud Initiative (NFI).

Introduction

North West Regional College is a "data controller" for the purposes of Data Protection legislation. This means that we are responsible for deciding how we hold and use personal information about you. This privacy notice explains how we hold and use any personal information we collect about you before, during and after your relationship with us.

The Data Protection Officer for the College is **Lois McKean** (DPO@nwrc.ac.uk).

The C&AG conducts data matching exercises to assist in the prevention and detection of fraud. This is one of the ways in which the C&AG fulfils his responsibility for promoting economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of public money. The main vehicle by which he exercises his powers in the National Fraud Initiative.

Data matching involves comparing sets of data, such as the payroll or benefits records of a body, against other records held by the same or another body, to see how far they match. The data is usually personal information. The data matching allows potentially fraudulent claims and payments to be identified. Where a match is found, it may indicate that there is 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 processing of data by the C&AG (in practice the processing is undertaken by the Cabinet Office on the C&AG's behalf) in a data matching exercise is carried out with statutory authority under his powers in Articles 4A to 4G of the Audit and Accountability (Northern Ireland) Order 2003. It does not require the consent of the individuals concerned under data protection legislation or the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

The College will receive a report of matches that we should investigate in order to detect instances of fraud, over or underpayments and other errors, take remedial action and update their records accordingly.

Lawful Basis

Personal Data

Under the UK GDPR (Article 6.1) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (Section 8), the legal basis for processing personal data under the NFI is that:

- **Article 6.1(e)** - processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller.

The College shares data for this exercise with the C&AG under legislative powers included in the Audit and Accountability (NI) Order 2003.

The NFI Privacy Notice can be accessed via: <https://www.niauditoffice.gov.uk/sites/niao/files/media-files/NFI%20Privacy%20Notice%202021.docx.pdf>

Categories of Personal Data

The C&AG process information that you provide when making a claim or applying for:

- Pension;
- Social housing (current tenants and individuals on a housing waiting list);
- Right to buy;
- Rates and rate relief;
- Transport pass and permit;
- Housing benefit;
- Other state benefits; and
- Taxi driver licenses

C&AG also process information provided:

- When seeking payment of an invoice from an organisation that takes part in the NFI;
- When seeking payment for employment from an organisation that takes part in the NFI (payroll date);
- When registering to vote.

Further details are available here: <https://www.niauditoffice.gov.uk/sites/niao/files/media-files/NFI%20Privacy%20Notice%202021.docx.pdf>

Further Information

Further information about the C&AG's data matching exercises; reports on completed exercises; legal powers and the reasons why he matches particular information, may be found at:

<https://www.niauditoffice.gov.uk/national-fraud-initiative>

For further information on data matching or concerns about non-compliance with the Code at North West Regional College, please contact Patrick McKeown, Director of Finance and Economic Engagement.

The College aims to process personal data lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner. If you wish to complain about how your personal data has been processed, please contact the Data Protection Officer at dpo@nwrc.ac.uk.

Information regarding your rights and our Data Protection Policy are available on <https://www.nwrc.ac.uk/data-protection>.