

Participation in the National Fraud Initiative

Choice are required to protect the public funds we administer, and we may share information provided to us with other bodies responsible for auditing or administering public funds in order to prevent and detect fraud.

We are going to participate in the National Fraud Initiative, and will be providing details of individual tenancies so that they can be compared to information provided by other public bodies. This will ensure, for example, that no pensions are being paid to persons who are deceased or no longer entitled and that occupational pension income is being declared when an application for housing benefit is made. Sometimes wrong payments are made of a genuine error. Previous exercises have uncovered instances of elderly tenants receiving too little pension, resulting in the payments to people being increased. These exercises therefore help ensure the best use of public funds.

You do not need to respond to this notice. However, you may be contacted again in the future if the data we hold suggests there are mismatches with data held with other public bodies. For further information, details of the National Fraud Initiative are set out in the Northern Ireland Audit Office's website www.niauditoffice.gov.uk or alternatively you can email us at finance@oakleetrinity.org.uk.

The use of data by the Comptroller and Auditor General in a data matching exercise is carried out with statutory authority. It does not require the consent of individuals concerned under the Data Protection Act 1998.

Data matching by the Comptroller and Auditor General is subject to a Code of Practice. This may be found at www.niauditoffice.gov.uk.

For further information on the Comptroller and Auditor General's legal powers and the reasons why he matches particular information are available on the NIAO website at www.niauditoffice.gov.uk.