



# Flexible Matching Service

*Working with organisations to prevent fraud...*

**The National Fraud Initiative (NFI) is a sophisticated data matching exercise that matches electronic data within and between public and private sector bodies to prevent and detect fraud. It has been run every two years since 1996 and to date, has been used to identify fraud and overpayments totalling over £1.17 billion.**

The NFI's flexible matching service (FMS) for public sector bodies builds on the established success of the NFI two-yearly exercise. FMS can match batch datasets as stand-alone tasks at a time and frequency that suits an organisation's operational requirements. It is a flexible and cost effective tool to help in the fight against fraud.

## Unique and flexible

- FMS can be used to undertake:
  - internal cross matching of your organisation's data sets
  - matching of datasets between organisations in a syndicate
- You can also choose to match to core NFI data that will be recollected periodically
- Participants decide what data they wish to submit based on the fraud risks they face
- Data is mapped to pre-set data specifications at point of submission to ensure data quality and allow for an instant turnaround of matches.

## Proven

- FMS gives organisations taking part all the benefits of NFI's core data matching but with matches being returned almost immediately once data has been submitted.
- The matching process takes place automatically and matches are passed back immediately through a FMS web application that mirrors the existing easy to use NFI reports and tools.

## Cost effective

- A fee is charged per dataset. For the first twenty datasets this is £300, falling to £250 for every additional dataset.

## Secure

- The FMS secure data file upload system applies automatic encryption when sending your data to the NFI.
- Participants have password controlled access to matches, using the same computer architecture as online banking.
- The NFI is compliant with the information security standard ISO27001 and accredited against the Government's information assurance standards.

## Legal framework

- The FMS allows matching between organisations to be undertaken within the existing NFI legal framework.
- Participants have delegated authority to determine when they use the service and which datasets to match for fraud prevention and detection
- The service is compliant with the Code of Data Matching Practice and data protection and human rights legislation
- Other public and private sector bodies can participate on a voluntary basis

## Using FMS for mortality screening

- FMS can be used to undertake mortality screening on pensions, blue badges, concessionary travel passes and residents in private care homes.

For further information about using the NFI's flexible matching service email: [nfiqueries@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:nfiqueries@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)