

National Fraud Initiative (NFI) 2026/27 Privacy Notice

Introduction

This Privacy Notice seeks to inform you about how PBNI proposes to use your personal data for the purpose of the National Fraud Initiative (NFI) 2026-27 in Northern Ireland, including why we share it with the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG).

The National Fraud Initiative (NFI) is run every two years and is a highly effective data matching tool which helps to identify potentially fraudulent and erroneous transactions, using sophisticated computer-based data matching techniques. The NFI collects data from central government and various other public and private sources and, by comparing the data held (known as matching), it can identify possible cases of fraud or error. The next data matching exercise under the NFI will commence in September 2026.

Legal Basis

Under the GDPR (article 6(1)) and the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018 (section 8), the legal basis for processing your personal data is that 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 data controller. The C&AG conducts data matching exercises under statutory powers in the Audit and Accountability (Northern Ireland) Order 2003.

Data that is shared with the C&AG and the reason for matching it

PBNI is required to provide particular sets of data to the C&AG for matching. This data includes personal information that business suppliers provide when seeking payment from PBNI. This is referred to as trade creditor standing and payment history data.

Data also includes personal information that PBNI staff provide when seeking payment from PBNI for salary and expenses payments. This is known as payroll data.

Data specifications setting out exactly what data we process in the above areas can be found on the National Fraud Initiative: [public sector data specifications page](#).

We want you to know that we take privacy very seriously. Please be assured that we will always manage your data securely and responsibly. Data matching by the Comptroller and Auditor

General is subject to a Code of Practice. For further information on how your personal data will be used visit the NI Audit Office [privacy notice](#).

Your rights

Individuals whose data is included in data matching exercises have rights under data protection legislation.

These include the right to:

- request information about how your personal data are processed, and to request a copy of that personal data
- request that any inaccuracies in your personal data are rectified without delay
- request that any incomplete personal data are completed, including by means of a supplementary statement
- request that your personal data are erased if there is no longer a justification for them to be processed.
- in certain circumstances (for example, where accuracy is contested) to request that the processing of your personal data is restricted.
- Object to the processing of your personal data.

Individuals' usual rights of access to data held about them may be limited as a consequence of exemptions in the data protection legislation (as set out in Schedule 2 of the Data Protection Act 2018). Exemptions will apply in relation to the processing of personal data for the prevention and detection of crime.

Retention of Personal Information

Personal data will not be kept for longer than is necessary. The information you provide will be held in line with the National Fraud Initiative Data Deletion Schedule. Specific details of the data retention periods for NFI data can be accessed through the following link,

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

PBNI and its auditors may retain some data for a longer period, for the purposes of audit, continuing investigations or prosecutions.

HOW DO I COMPLAIN IF I AM NOT HAPPY?

If you are unhappy with how any aspect of this privacy notice, or how your personal information is being processed, please contact the Data Protection Officer at:

Telephone: 028 90 522522

Email: DPO@probation-ni.gov.uk

If you are still not happy, you have the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO):

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

<https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>

Further Information

For further information on data matching at PBNi contact Paul King on 028 90522686 or email Paul.King@probation-ni.gov.uk.

Further information about the Comptroller and Auditor General's data matching exercises, including reports on completed exercises, may be found on the NFI page of the NIAO's website.

Alternatively, please contact the NFI Coordinator at:

Northern Ireland Audit Office
106 University Street
Belfast
BT7 1EU

Email: nficoordinator@niauditoffice.gov.uk