

National Fraud Initiative - Data Deletion Schedule

The following data deletion schedule applies to the NFI data matching exercises, including all proof of concept (research and development) data matching. In the event that the Cabinet Office elects to terminate the NFI then an appropriate data deletion timetable for all intelligence will be derived and communicated.

NFI Area	Data Deletion	Matches withdrawn and archives made available	NFI Matches Deletion	NFI Prior Year Matchkey ¹ Deletion
National Exercise²	Within 12 ^{3 4} months of the data ⁵ being re-supplied, passing data quality checks and being accepted for the next national data matching exercise or when a refreshed dataset is received (or within 20 months if data is not part of the national exercise).	Within 7 months of the next national exercise data matches being released (or within 18 months if data is not part of the national exercise).	Within 9 months of the next national exercise data matches being released (or within 20 months if data is not part of the national exercise).	After 6 years.
ReCheck	Within 9 ^{2 3} months of the data ⁴ being re-supplied, passing data quality checks and being accepted for the next national data matching exercise/annual CTSPD exercise (or within 20 months if data is not part of the national exercise).	Within 7 months of the next national exercise/annual CTSPD exercise data matches being released (or within 18 months if data is not part of the national exercise).	Within 9 months of the next national exercise/annual CTSPD exercise data matches being released; (or within 20 months if data is not part of the national exercise).	After 6 years.
FraudHub (automated)	Within 18 months of the data matches being released or when a new data file is uploaded	n/a	Within 18 months	n/a
AppCheck (automated)	Within 12 months of match being released	n/a	Within 12 months.	n/a
Data subsequently proved inaccurate or corrupt	Within 5 ² months of the data ⁴ inaccuracy being confirmed.	n/a	Within 5 months of the data inaccuracy being confirmed.	Within 5 months of the data inaccuracy being confirmed (if generated).

¹ The prior year matchkey consists of a unique reference key and comments recorded by participants. If these comments included personal details then they would be retained as part of the matchkey. No NFI personal details fields are retained.

² Although the data submission deadline for the biennial national exercise is December, matches may typically be issued in up to three releases as not all data might meet the first submission deadline, quality checks, etc. For the purposes of data deletion, the first release date e.g. December, is used to count from for data deletion and the second supplementary run (Run 2) for match deletion.

³ The NFI Backup policy means that there are traces of deleted NFI files remaining within the backup environment for up to three months.

⁴ Unless a specific timetable has been approved and documented as part of the proof of concept project scoping or as approved by another audit agency.

⁵ Defined as source data and any processed data generated.

Worked Examples

NFI Area	Data submitted	Data Deletion	Match Withdrawal and Archives made available	NFI Matches Deletion	NFI Prior year matchkey ¹ and comments deletion
National Exercise	A dataset was submitted between October and December 2022 for NFI 22/23. In December 2022, following data quality checks, data was loaded for matching. Matches were released on 31 January 2023 and a second supplementary release in May 2023. The data would be used throughout NFI 22/23 until it is replaced with 24/25 data.	This dataset would be resubmitted in October 2024 for NFI 24/25. NFI 24/25 matches will be released in December 2024 and April 2025. The 22/23 dataset would be deleted by December 2025 (i.e. 12 months after the data is submitted for 24/25).	NFI 22/23 matches are withdrawn and archives made available by November 2025 (i.e. 7 months after 24/25 Run 2 matches are released).	The NFI 2022/23 matches and archives would be deleted by January 2026.	By 2029
ReCheck - CT and ER data	Datasets submitted from December 2023 for the CTSPD 2023/24 annual exercise with matches released the same day/near same day (i.e. December 2023).	Datasets submitted for the CTSPD 2023/24 would be deleted by August 2025.	The match withdrawal and archive for CTSPD 23/24 matches will be available by June 2025.	CTSPD 23/24 matches will be deleted by August 2025.	By 2030
FraudHub	Data submitted on 1 March 2024.	By 1 September 2025	n/a	By 1 September 2025	n/a
AppCheck	Application Record submitted March 2024.	By March 2025	n/a	By March 2025	n/a
Data subsequently proved inaccurate or corrupt	Data submitted in October 2024, that was confirmed as corrupt in December 2024.	By May 2025	n/a	By May 2025	By May 2025 (if generated)

Updated January 2025