

Machinery of Government (MoG) Change Notice: The Public Sector Fraud Authority (PSFA) is transferring from the Cabinet Office to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). All legal duties and powers under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 remain fully in effect, with no anticipated impact to NFI services, data processing, or technical operations.

National Fraud Initiative - Data Deletion Schedule

As set out in the Code of Data Matching Practice data matches should be made available for a reasonable period necessary for participants to follow up matches. The following data deletion schedule applies to the NFI data matching exercises, including all proof of concept (research and development) data matching where data is received from both mandatory and voluntary participants.

In the event that the DWP elects to terminate the NFI then an appropriate data deletion timetable for all intelligence will be derived and communicated.

Refer to the [Worked Examples](#) for each of the [NFI Products](#) below.

NFI Area	Data Deletion	Matches withdrawn and archives made available	NFI Matches Deletion	NFI Prior Year Matchkey ¹ Deletion
NFI Area National Exercise ²	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.	Within 11 months of the next national exercise data matches being released.	Within 13 months of the next national exercise data matches being released.	After 6 years.
ReCheck (Automated)	18 months after the data ⁴ is uploaded.	18 months from the date matches were released.	20 months from the date matches were released.	After 6 years.
FraudHub (Automated)	Within 18 months of the data matches ⁴ being released or when a new data ⁴ is uploaded.	n/a	Within 18 months.	n/a
AppCheck (Automated)	Within 12 months of matches 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.	n/a
Data received for matching that is not part of the national exercise (e.g pilots)	Variable but typically within 24 months of being accepted for the project.	Variable depending on the match type, but matches are typically withdrawn within 24 months of their release.	Matches will typically be deleted 2 months after withdrawal.	n/a

¹ The prior year matchkey—stored securely in a hashed format—combines a unique reference key with participant comments, including any embedded personal details. It is used to flag recurring matches from previous NFI exercises. Providing the year, prior comments, and match status helps participants effectively assess risk and prioritise these matches.

² While the initial release for the biennial national exercise is in December, subsequent matches are issued in several phases up to 12 months after Run 1. Because the data deletion countdown for standard matches begins with Run 1, later releases have a shorter active lifespan. However, secondary withdrawal dates can be applied to significant late releases (like HMRC matches) to ensure they remain active for the full required duration.

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 and Archive Deletion	NFI Prior year matchkey and comments deletion
National Exercise	A dataset submitted between October and December 2024 for NFI 24/25: In December 2024, following data quality checks, data was loaded for matching. Matches were released on 20th December 2024. The data would be used throughout NFI 24/25 until it is replaced with 26/27 data.	Data would be resubmitted in October 2026 for NFI 26/27. 24/25 datasets are replaced with data from the 26/27 exercise.	NFI 24/25 matches are withdrawn and archives made available by November 2027.	The NFI 2024/25 matches and archives would be deleted by January 2028.	24/25 will be deleted by 2031.
ReCheck - CT and ER data	Data submitted on 1 December 2024 for the CTSPD 2024/25 annual exercise with matches released the same day.	Data submitted for the CTSPD 2024/25 (1 December 2024) is deleted on 1st June 2026 or when refreshed data is received for the 2025/26 CTSPD exercise.	CTSPD 24/25 matches generated on 1 December 2024 are withdrawn and an archive made available by 1 June 2026.	CTSPD 24/25 matches and archives will be deleted by August 2026.	24/25 will be deleted by 2031.
FraudHub	Data submitted on 1 March 2026 is deleted by 1 September 2027.	1 September 2027.	n/a	1 September 2027. No archives are produced	n/a
AppCheck	Application Record submitted March 2026.	March 2027.	n/a	March 2027. No archives are produced.	n/a
Data subsequently proved inaccurate or corrupt	Data submitted in October 2026, that was confirmed as corrupt in December 2026.	May 2027.	n/a	May 2027. No archives are produced.	May 2027 (if generated).
Housing tenancy Pilot	Data submitted in February 2025. Matches released on 2 July 2024.	4 September 2025.	3 July 2025.	4 September 2025.	n/a

NFI Products

National Exercise (NE)

Data for the NFI is provided by over 1,000 participating organisations from the public and private sectors, including local authorities, government departments, private registered providers of social housing and pension schemes. The NFI works with public audit agencies in all parts of the UK. Data matching involves comparing sets of data electronically, to identify inconsistencies that require further investigation by the relevant organisation.

The NFI is conducted under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. This allows the Secretary of State or the Minister for the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to require certain public sector bodies to provide data for NFI processing on a mandatory basis for the prevention and detection of fraud. In addition, certain bodies can also provide data for matching on a voluntary basis. In accordance with the legislative requirement set out in schedule 9 (6) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the DWP sets a work programme and fee scale for each NE.

ReCheck

ReCheck is an automated flexible data matching service that complements the National Exercise. It sits within the NFI secure web application and allows participants to re-perform existing matching to their own data and/or to data collected for the NE. An additional fee applies per dataset.

AppCheck

AppCheck is a fraud prevention tool that helps organisations to stop fraud at the point of application, thereby reducing administrative and future investigation costs. Additional fees apply based on the number of searches or for an annual membership.

FraudHub

FraudHub enables individual organisations or groups of neighbouring organisations to regularly screen more than one dataset, with the aim of detecting errors in processing payments or benefits and services. An additional annual membership fee applies.