

AUDIT COMMISSION NATIONAL FRAUD INITIATIVE 2010/11

Level 2 – Fair Processing Notice

The Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust is required by law to protect the public funds it administers. It may share information provided to it with other bodies responsible for auditing or administering public funds, in order to prevent and detect fraud.

The Audit Commission appoints external auditors to audit the accounts of the Trust. The Internal Audit Department in conjunction with external auditors is responsible for carrying out data matching exercises.

Data matching involves comparing computer records held by the Trust against other computer records held by the same or another participating body such as local government, central government, other NHS organisations and a number of private sector pension bodies. This is usually personal information. Computerised data matching allows potentially fraudulent claims and payments to be identified. Where a match is found it indicates that there is an inconsistency which requires further investigation. No assumption can be made as to whether there is fraud, error or other explanation until an investigation is carried out.

The Audit Commission currently requires the Trust to participate in a data matching exercise to assist in the prevention and detection of fraud. We are required to provide particular sets of data to the Audit Commission for matching for each exercise, and these are set out in the Audit Commission's guidance, which can be found at: www.audit-commission.gov.uk/nfi.

The use of data by the Audit Commission in a data matching exercise is carried out with statutory authority under its powers in Part 2A of the Audit Commission Act 1998. It does not require the consent of the individuals concerned under the Data Protection Act 1998.

Data matching by the Audit Commission is subject to a Code of Practice. This may be found at: www.audit-commission.gov.uk/nfi/pages/codeofdatamatchingpractice.

For further information on the Audit Commission's legal powers and the reasons why it matches particular information, see:

www.audit-commission.gov.uk/nfi/instructions/fairprocessingnotice/pages/level3fulltext.

or contact Peter Yetzes, Head of NFI, Audit Commission, on 0844 798 2222 or email nfiqueries@audit-commission.gov.uk.