

Consultation response

Public Sector Fraud Authority proposal to use a Legislative Reform Order to amend the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to enable local authorities to use adult social care data in the detection of social care fraud.

Audit Scotland has been invited to comment on the Public Sector Fraud Authority (PSFA) proposal to use a legislative reform order to amend the Local Audit Accountability Act 2014 to enable the submission of adult social care data as part of the National Fraud Initiative with the release of match reports back to local authorities responsible for the payments for care.

We strongly agree that the NFI's UK-wide data matching service supports counter-fraud activity across Scotland's public sector and it has assisted in generating savings.

We do not consider that there would be any individuals adversely impacted by the data matching (other than those committing fraudulent acts) and that the recommencement of adult social care data matching will maintain patient data protections. The data matching will not include details of an individual's care.

We strongly agree that the recommencement of adult social care data matching is a proportionate action as a means to help tackle and deter fraud in adult social care.

We are not aware of any non-legislative proposals that would proportionately target fraud and support counter-fraud activity in the sector better than the recommencement adult social care data matching.

The Legislative Reform Order approach to amending the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 appears to be the most expedient way to enable the reintroduction of matching of adult social care data for the detection of fraud.