The Executive Office (TEO) - Finance Systems Counter Fraud, Raising Concerns & Complaints Branch - National Fraud Initiative 2026-27 Privacy Notice

Data Protection Officer:	DAVID MOORE
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Introduction

This Privacy Notice provides information on how TEO proposes to use your personal data for the purposes of the National Fraud Initiative (NFI) 2026-27 in Northern Ireland, including reasons for sharing that information 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 October 2026.

Purpose – Why are you processing my personal information?

The Executive Office participates in the National Fraud Initiative (NFI) to assist in the prevention and detection of fraud, error and other irregularities. The NFI uses data matching to compare information held by public bodies and identify cases that may require further investigation, helping to protect public funds.

Source – Where do you get my personal information from?

This information is obtained from records held within Account NI and HRConnect and is processed as part of The Executive Office's financial, payroll and human resources functions.

Legal Basis

In order to comply with data protection legislation, we must have a lawful basis for processing any personal data. 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 processing that this Department carries out is on a public task basis pursuant to the C&AG's powers in Articles 4A to 4H of the Audit and Accountability (Northern Ireland) Order 2003.

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

TEO 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 TEO. This is referred to as trade creditor standing and payment history data. Data also includes personal information that TEO staff provide when seeking payment from TEO for salary and expenses payments. Specific details of the data specifications provided to the C&AG by TEO can be accessed through the Northern Ireland Audit Office's website:

www.niauditoffice.gov.uk/national-fraud-initiative

Your rights

You have certain rights in relation to the personal information that we collect about you. These include:

• **The right to be informed** - Organisations must be completely transparent in how they are using personal data;

• **The right of access** - Individuals will have the right to know what information is held about them and how it is processed; however, exemptions may apply in certain circumstances;

• **The right of rectification** - Individuals will be entitled to have personal data rectified if it is inaccurate or incomplete;

• **The right to erasure** – Also known as the 'right to be forgotten', which means that an individual can request the removal of their personal data when there is no compelling justification for its continued processing by a 'data controller'; and

Any request for personal information to be erased will be recorded by The Executive Office, however it should be noted there is no obligation to erase personal information.

• **The right to object** - In certain circumstances, individuals are entitled to object to their personal data being used. For example, individuals can object if the processing is for a task carried out in the public interest; however, in these circumstances the right to object is not absolute.

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.

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

General enquiries

If you have any queries about this Privacy Notice or need a copy in an alternative format or language, please contact Finance Systems Counter Fraud, Raising Concerns & Complaints Branch at the address below.

Finance Systems Counter Fraud, Raising Concerns & Complaints Branch
Castle Buildings
Belfast
BT4 3SL
Telephone: 02890522680
E-mail: RaisingConcerns@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk

Complaints

TEO aims to process personal data lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner. In the event that you are unhappy with how your personal data is processed, you can raise your concerns with the Department's Data Protection Officer, David Moore, at: dpo@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk

Or, by post to the address below:

The Executive Office
Castle Buildings
Stormont Castle
Belfast, BT4 3SR.

Should you remain unhappy following the Data Protection Officer's response, you have the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commission(the Data Protection regulator) at:

Information Commission Head Office
4th Floor, No.3 Circle Square
5 Hawkshaw Street
Manchester
M1 7BL
Email: casework@ico.org.uk

Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate)
01625 545 745 (national rate)

Changes to the Privacy Notice

This Privacy Notice will be reviewed on a regular basis to take account of relevant changes to personal data processing under the National Fraud Initiative, and to make sure that it remains appropriate. Any personal information held will be governed by the most current Privacy Notice. The Privacy Notice was last updated inOctober2026.

Further Information

Further information about the National Fraud Initiative, including reports on completed exercises, may be found at https://www.niauditoffice.gov.uk/national-fraud-initiative.