

NATIONAL FRAUD INITIATIVE IN SCOTLAND

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The NFI in Scotland is now well established and has been operating for over a decade. The NFI enables public bodies to take advantage of computer data matching techniques to detect fraud and error. The NFI remains the largest national fraud detection and prevention scheme that can provide data matches within and between public bodies.
- 1.2 The attached National report includes key messages, impact and outcomes and provides detail on the future of the NFI. Cumulative NFI outcomes are now at £94million and across the UK £1.17billion of NFI outcomes have now been recorded.
- 1.3 The report includes a recommendation that Audit Committees or equivalent should review the self-appraisal checklist, Part A (Page 37) to ensure they are fully informed of the planning and the progress being made by their officers investigating the NFI 2014/15.
- 1.4 The self-appraisal checklist has been completed and is shown at Appendix 2 to this report.
- 1.5 Other recommendations include Local Authorities taking steps to retain or invest in sufficient capability, in the short term and long term, to investigate non housing benefit fraud or corporate fraud including relevant NFI matches, after SFIS (Single Fraud Investigatory Service) is introduced.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Audit Committee note the content of the June 2014 National Report included at Appendix 1.

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19 JUNE 2015

Appendices

1. The National Fraud Initiative in Scotland
2. Self-Appraisal checklist