
NATIONAL FRAUD INITIATIVE (NFI) – NATIONAL EXERCISE 2010 - 2011

1. INTRODUCTION

Audit Scotland reported in their National Fraud Initiative (NFI) 2008/09 report that Argyll and Bute Council had scope to improve their process in investigating matches. This report details the progress being made by the Council with the NFI 2010 - 2011 national exercise matches. Set out below are the progress results presented to the SMT, 18 May 2011.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The contents of this report are to be noted by the Audit Committee that the Strategic Management Team (SMT) are receiving monthly progress reports regarding the investigation of NFI matches by the responsible officers.

3. DETAILS

3.1 In a report to the March 2011 Audit Committee it was cited that in order to improve the NFI matches performance it would require the co-operation and support of officers in both Community and Customer Services. The report below indicates that co-operation is taking place.

3.2 As at 10th May 2011, of the 6 NFI match categories, 4 have now been completed and 3 are continuing to be progressed.

3.3 The NFI recently issued additional match referrals for;

- Residential Care Homes; and
- Blue Badges.

It can be reported that these additional matches for both Residential Care Homes and Blue Badges have been completed.

3.4 At present 143 Housing Benefit recommended matches have been forwarded to the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) for Investigation. The council has to wait for the results of these investigations before the NFI website can be updated. However progress is being made with 77 matches processed from 260 noted on Table 1.

4. Conclusion

4.1 The SMT will continue to receive monthly reports on the progress by responsible officers as they work towards completion of the remaining match investigations.

APPENDIX 1

Table 1 - Cumulative Progress Report 10 May 2011

Datasets	Recommended Filter Matches	Total Matches	Matches selected for Investigation	Cumulative Matches Processed as at 10th May 2011	Responsible Officer	Target dates for completion of Matches
Housing Benefit	143	1315	260	77	Fraud Administrator	31/5/2011
Creditors	509	7723	190	212	Completed	N/A
Payroll	5	158	21	16	Payroll Supervisor	08/04/2011. Revised date 31/5/2011
Residential Care Homes	48	87	87	87	Completed	N/A
Blue Badges	108	121	121	121	Complete	N/A
Insurance	0	7	7	7	Completed	N/A
Total	813	9411	686	520		

Datasets	Outcomes for completed datasets
Creditors	The match sample investigation identified four duplicates, however in each case Creditors duplicate software (Fiscal Technologies) had picked them up and were resolved at the time.
Private Residential Care Homes	There were no issues found.
Insurance	There were no issues found.
Blue Badges	There were no issues found.

Table 2 – Key External Review Dates

Key Dates	Target Dates
Accounts Commission are looking for an update re our response to housing benefit matches	May 2011
NFI: A large proportion of selected matches should have been investigated, with most outcomes identified.	September 2011
NFI: All selected matches should have been investigated and outcomes recoded on the NFI website	January 2012
NFI: Final position statement. The council should ensure all work is up to date	February 2012
NFI: Case Studies - National report examples of good practice.	March 2012
Publication of national report	May 2012

For further information contact Ian Nisbet on TEL: 01546 604216. .