

Contact details

If you would like further information on NFI please see our website
<http://www.wao.gov.uk/whatwedo/1252.asp>

Alternatively please contact:

Katrina Febry
NFI Co-ordinator
Tel: 029 2032 0616
nfi@wao.gov.uk

David Rees
Governance Manager
Tel: 029 2032 0561
david.rees@wao.gov.uk

Gill Lewis
Engagement Partner
Tel: 029 2032 0563
gill.lewis@wao.gov.uk

Wales Audit Office
www.wao.gov.uk
24 Cathedral Road
Cardiff
CF11 9LJ
Tel: 029 2032 0500
Textphone: 029 2032 0660
Fax: 029 2032 0600
Email: wales@wao.gov.uk



WALES AUDIT OFFICE
SWYDDFA ARCHWILIO CYMRU

The National Fraud Initiative



Around £20 billion of public money is spent in Wales every year, with public bodies paying out large amounts on benefits and social welfare claims.

Public sector bodies are often targeted by fraudsters and so need to work together and share information in order to minimise the risk of fraud. The National Fraud Initiative (NFI) was launched in 1996 for this purpose and has been used to uncover over £11.5 million of fraud and financial overpayments in Wales, and nearly £450 million across the UK.

The NFI uses data-matching to detect fraudulent and erroneous payments from the public purse and runs every two years.

It helps local government, central government and the NHS to identify fraud and error and is administered by the Auditor General.

Some 70 public sector organisations in Wales took part in the latest NFI exercise in 2006-07, including local authorities, NHS bodies, the Assembly Government and the Wales Audit Office.

The latest exercise uncovered £4.5 million of fraudulent and erroneous payments, resulting in 26 successful prosecutions. It also found instances of:

- people claiming benefits fraudulently;
- duplicate supplier payments;
- pension payments continuing to be made to deceased pensioners; and
- staff employed full time by more than one public sector body.

As well as achieving financial savings, NFI helps public bodies to:

- strengthen their counter-fraud and corruption arrangements;
- identify control weaknesses in financial systems;
- gain assurance that system controls are working effectively to prevent fraud and corruption; and
- identify health and safety concerns.

The Auditor General administers NFI in accordance with strict data security guidelines, the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Auditor General's Code of Data Matching Practice (the Code). The Code was subject to a public consultation exercise and liaison with the Information Commissioner and has been approved by the Assembly Government.

