



AGENDA NO: 9

INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE – 29 OCTOBER 2020

FOI - OPEN

NATIONAL FRAUD INITIATIVE 2020-21

REPORT BY KAREN JAMES

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of arrangements for the participation and completion of the 2020-21 National Fraud Initiative (NFI) exercise on behalf of the Cabinet Office.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The NFI is a data matching exercise conducted by the Cabinet Office under its data matching powers set out in the Local Accountability and Audit Act 2014.
- 1.2 The NFI is an effective tool for detecting and preventing fraud, error and overpayment across the UK.
- 1.3 The NFI aims to :-
 - Safeguard public money against losses from fraud or misappropriation
 - Make an effective contribution to the wider fight against fraud and potentially other crime
- 1.4 The Cabinet Office pledges to uphold and protect citizens' rights in relation to their personal data at all times.
- 1.5 The NFI is run over a two year period so the NFI 2020-21 work programme and scale of fees covers the two financial years 2020-21 and 2021-22.
- 1.6 Mandatory participants are charge £1,200 that covers the Force and OPCC, with Dorset and Devon & Cornwall Police charged as two separate legal entities.

2. NFI 2020-21 EXERCISE

- 2.1 A detailed timetable outlining the various stages of the NFI exercise is shown at Appendix A, with key dates being shaded within the table.

- 2.2 Police bodies are required to submit mandatory datasets on payroll, pensions and trade creditors' details and payment history.
- 2.3 The Dorset and Devon & Cornwall NFI key contact submits a "privacy notice compliance declaration" that states that both organisations and the pension administrators have in place a valid privacy notice and are compliant with GDPR requirements.
- 2.4 Specified data was extracted from the finance system on the 30 September 2020 and is required to be uploaded to NFI between the 9th October and 1st December 2020. The data covers a 3 year period up to 30 September 2020.
- 2.5 Both Forces submit the data from the shared Agresso finance system managed by Devon & Cornwall. As creditor information is stored jointly within the shared system the creditor matches are shown under D&C results rather than Dorset.
- 2.6 Both organisations pension administrators (XPS for Police Officers and Dorset Council and D&C Peninsula Pensions for Police Staff) submit data on our behalf in accordance with NFI standards.
- 2.7 In an effort to improve data quality and matching opportunities there are now financial penalties to those who do not upload the data within the required window or where the data is not in the required format or is insufficient for any other reason. The penalty is £60.
- 2.8 The NFI exercise matches will be available from 28th January 2021 to September 2022 for investigation, although every attempt will be made to prioritise and investigate the matches as soon as possible to prevent further opportunities for fraud from taking place.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to note the report and timetable for the NFI 2020-21 data upload.

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