

APPENDIX 4

From: <nationalfraudinitiative@nfi.gov.uk>
Date: 20/12/07 15:44:44
Subject: On behalf of Peter Yetzes - National Fraud Initiative Single Person Council Tax Discounts

Dear Director of Finance

National Fraud Initiative - Single Person Council Tax Discounts

On 14 December, we wrote formally to you setting out the supplementary scale of fees for 2007/08 to cover the extra costs of additional data matching under the Commission's National Fraud Initiative (NFI) in relation to fraudulent claims for single person council tax discounts. We attached to the letter a copy of counsel's opinion which clarified the issues of provision of council tax and electoral register data for the above mentioned data matching exercise.

I should be grateful if you would now arrange for the submission of the required datasets as soon as possible. Naturally, there has been some delay whilst arranging for the opinion and I have therefore extended the submission deadline to 21st January 2008 to take account of the Christmas and New Year break. However, if the data is already prepared feel free to upload it as soon as you wish as this may help us to meet or at least get close to our original target of posting the matches to the secure website in late March 2008.

You will be aware that all data submitted to NFI is now uploaded directly to the secure website by an electronic file transfer process, involving automatic data encryption that was implemented in August 2007. This means that there is no need to write data to CD-Roms and indeed any data arriving by other means will trigger an email to you pointing out that the NFI submission protocol has been disregarded and the data has been put at risk.

Results from the early pilot sites are exceptionally encouraging with increases in the tax base ranging from £400k to £1.1million and at each authority there have been a number of associated housing benefit frauds detected. I hope that your authority enjoys similar success and my NFI Team will be available to support your internal auditors and revenues staff should it be necessary.

Yours sincerely

Peter Yetzes
Associate Director - IT

Synectics Solutions Limited
(Registered in England No. 2685135) Registered Office: Synectics House, The Brampton,