

14 December 2007

To: Chief Executives, all council tax collection authorities  
Directors of Finance, all council tax collection authorities

## **SUPPLEMENTARY SCALE OF FEES FOR 2007/08 FOR THE NATIONAL FRAUD INITIATIVE**

In June we consulted on a supplementary scale of fees for 2007/08 for specified local authorities (council tax collection authorities) 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. The Commission has now considered the comments received and has confirmed the proposed supplementary scale of fees for 2007/08 of £500 for specified local authorities (council tax collection authorities), on which we consulted.

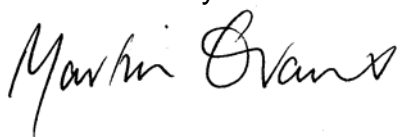
The council tax single person discount exercise matches council tax data to the full electoral register submitted to NFI. Outline advice on the statutory basis for using the electoral register was issued to NFI key contacts when the download specification was distributed on 4 September 2007.

Since then a number of local authorities have queried the legal basis for this work, in particular the use of the electoral register for data matching purposes. For the avoidance of doubt, and after discussions with the Association of Council Secretaries and Solicitors (ACSeS), we have obtained leading counsel's opinion, which affirms our statutory powers to undertake this work. I am pleased to enclose a copy.

The work will commence, and the additional audit fee of £500 plus VAT will be invoiced, early in the New Year. We will be writing to Directors of Finance and their key contacts in the next few days about the operational aspects of the work.

If you have any questions about the work, please raise them initially with your local auditor. Alternatively please contact Peter Yetzes, the appointed auditor for the NFI, at [p-yetzes@audit-commission.gov.uk](mailto:p-yetzes@audit-commission.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely



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