National Fraud Initiative: fair processing notice

Every two years, East Thames takes part in the National Fraud Initiative. This means that, like other housing associations, we provide information on East Thames residents, staff and suppliers to the Audit Commission so they can compare it to information held by local authorities, the government and the NHS. This is to help detect and prevent fraud against organisations like East Thames that use public money.

In the past, the data matching exercises have identified East Thames properties that were being unlawfully occupied and have now been recovered. This is good news as those properties can then be given to residents who are entitled to social housing.

For the 2014-15 data matching exercise, we will be providing the Audit Commission with the following details on all of our residents:

* Full name
* Address
* Date of birth
* Tenancy start and end date
* Tenant reference number
* Housing benefit reference number
* Number of people living permanently at your address
* If ‘right to buy’ is in progress (and completion date where relevant)
* Amount of right to buy discount, if any

We provide the Audit Commission with information as set out in the Audit Commission's guidance, [which you can read here](http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/fraud/nfi/pages/default.aspx).

The Audit Commission is responsible for carrying out checks to make sure public funds are not being used fraudulently. They will only use the information we provide to carry out computer checks looking for discrepancies. If they find any, an investigation will be carried out before any further action is taken.

The Audit Commission has the power to carry out these checks under the Audit Commission Act 1998, so they do not need to seek permission from individuals. The checks that the Audit Commission carries out as part of this initiative are subject to a Code of Practice.

Any personal information you give us is held securely in accordance with the Data Protection Act, 1998. Information that was collected for one purpose may be used for other business purposes and we may also