Usually, yes—but the firms, information shared and purpose should depend on the broker's process and what you've agreed to. A credit broker may pass details to lenders or other partners so they can assess your application or show you borrowing options. It may also use service providers to run its website or check applications.

That does not supanet.com mean every broker sends your information to every lender, or that applying guarantees a loan. Before you submit details, check the broker's **privacy notice** and the wording on the application. These should explain which firms may receive information, why it is shared, and whether it may be used for marketing.

Knowing who might see your details matters—but so does deciding whether to borrow at all. If you do borrow, work out the monthly payment and the total amount repayable, not just the advertised APR. Borrow only what you need and can afford to repay.

What does a credit broker do?

A credit broker helps people find or apply for credit from a lender. Brokers may work with a selected panel of lenders rather than the whole market. Some introduce you to one firm; others compare options or use your information to decide which lender may be suitable.

A broker is not necessarily the company lending you money. The lender decides whether to approve an application and sets the loan terms. A broker may be paid by a lender if you take out a loan, charge you a fee, or do both. It should make any relevant fee and commission arrangements clear.

Which firms receive my information?

There is no single answer for every broker. Depending on how you apply, information could be shared with:

- **Lenders on the broker's panel:** to assess eligibility, provide a quote or process an application. The broker may send details to one lender at a time, or to more than one. Check what the privacy notice and application say.
- **Credit reference agencies (CRAs):** a broker or lender may use an agency to help verify your identity, assess creditworthiness or check your credit file. A search may be "soft" or "hard"; the effect depends on the search and who carries it out.
- **Fraud-prevention and identity-checking agencies:** firms may share information to check identity or help detect and prevent fraud. Ask the broker if you want to know which checks it uses.
- **Open Banking providers:** if you choose to connect a bank account, an authorised provider may access specified account information for the agreed purpose. Read the connection screen and permissions before continuing.
- **Service providers:** companies supporting the broker's website, application system, communications, customer service or data storage may process information on its behalf.
- **Marketing or referral partners:** some firms share information to offer other products or services. Look for separate wording about marketing, referrals or "selected partners"—not just the section about assessing your loan application.

The details shared might include your name, contact details, date of birth, address history, employment and income information, bank details, the amount you want to borrow and information about your application.

The exact information depends on the product and checks involved.



How to find out which firms receive information

Read the broker's privacy notice before entering sensitive information. It may be linked near the application form, in the website footer or in the broker's emails. Look for sections titled "Who we share your data with", "Recipients", "Lenders", "Credit reference agencies" or "Marketing".

A useful privacy notice should explain, in understandable terms:

- the types of personal information collected;
- the purposes for using and sharing it;
- the categories of companies that may receive it—or the names of firms, where applicable;
- how long the information is kept, or how that period is decided;
- your data protection rights and how to contact the firm about them; and
- whether information may be used for marketing and how to change your preferences.

If the notice says only "we may share your details with trusted partners", that may not tell you enough to understand what will happen. Contact the broker and ask: **"Which firms will receive my information if I submit this application, and will you send it to more than one lender?"** Also ask whether the process involves a credit search and whether that search is soft or hard.

It is reasonable to pause if you cannot get a clear answer. Don't enter bank login details, pay a fee or agree to marketing just because a page makes the offer sound urgent. Check that you are dealing with the firm you intended to contact, and read each consent box rather than assuming it is necessary for a loan application.

What does "consent" mean for data sharing?

Businesses must explain how they use personal information and have a lawful basis for processing it under UK data protection law. That basis is not always consent. For example, a firm may need to use certain

information to take steps connected with an application, meet a legal obligation or pursue a legitimate interest. The privacy notice should explain the relevant purposes and lawful bases.

Consent boxes are especially important for optional uses, such as some forms of direct marketing. A box agreeing to marketing should not be confused with the information needed to assess a loan. If you are unsure whether a tick box is optional, ask the broker before proceeding.

You can ask a company what personal information it holds about you or request corrections if something is wrong. You may also have the right to object to some uses or ask for information to be erased, although those rights are not absolute in every situation. The privacy notice should explain how to make a request.

Will applying affect my credit score?

It depends on the search. A soft search can be used to check eligibility without appearing to lenders as a full application search on your credit report. A hard search is generally recorded and may be visible to other lenders reviewing your file. The exact effect on your credit record depends on the search and the CRA's reporting.

Do not assume a broker's initial check is soft. Before continuing, look for a clear explanation of whether it will carry out a soft or hard search, when a lender may run its own search, and whether your details will be sent to multiple lenders. A broker's check and a lender's later check may not be the same thing.

Check the borrowing cost, not just the APR

APR is useful for comparing the cost of credit, but it is not the only figure to consider. Your actual offer may have a different rate from an advertised representative APR. Compare the monthly payment, the full amount repayable, the length of the loan, and any fees or conditions.

Figure What it tells you What to check APR An annualised measure intended to help compare borrowing costs. Is the rate offered to you, or only a representative example? Is the rate fixed or variable? Monthly payment What you are expected to pay each month. Can your budget manage it in a difficult month, as well as an ordinary one? Total repayable The total you would pay over the agreement, including interest and any included charges. How much more is this than the amount borrowed? Are there other fees not included?

For example, imagine borrowing £1,000 and repaying £100 a month for 12 months. The repayments add up to £1,200, before any charges not included in that example. That makes the cost £200 over the amount borrowed. This is an illustration only: it is not a quote or an APR calculation. Always use the figures in your actual pre-contract information.

A longer loan can reduce each monthly payment while increasing the total interest paid. A low monthly figure does not automatically mean the loan is cheap. Compare offers over the same amount and term where possible, and consider whether you could repay early and whether an early repayment charge applies.



Fees, charges and variable rates: the costs people forget

Before accepting an offer, check for costs that might sit outside the headline payment. Fees and charges vary by product and lender, so read the agreement rather than assuming they apply—or do not apply.

- **Broker fees:** ask whether the broker charges you, when payment is due, and whether the fee is refundable if you do not get a loan.
- **Arrangement or administration fees:** find out whether any lender fee is added to the loan, paid upfront or included in the total repayable figure.
- **Late or missed-payment charges:** check what could happen if a payment is late and whether extra interest may also apply.
- **Early repayment charges:** ask whether paying the loan off sooner would trigger a fee or change the interest due.
- **Variable rates:** if the rate can change, ask what affects it and how a rise could change your monthly payment or total cost.
- **Optional add-ons:** check whether insurance or another product is included, whether it is optional and what it costs over the full term.

Do not borrow extra “just in case” without working out what that additional amount would cost. A larger loan can mean a larger monthly payment and more interest overall. Start with the bill or purchase you actually need to cover, then compare the cost of borrowing only that amount.

Consider alternatives before taking out credit

If the loan is for a necessary bill or short-term shortfall, borrowing may not be your only option. Consider:

- asking the organisation you owe for an affordable payment plan or more time;
- checking whether you are entitled to benefits, a grant or other support;
- speaking to your employer about an advance, if that is available and suitable;
- using savings, if doing so would not leave you unable to meet essential costs; or

- contacting a free, impartial debt-advice service if existing repayments are already difficult.

For UK debt advice, you can contact organisations such as StepChange, National Debtline or Citizens Advice. Check their official websites independently and be wary of anyone demanding an upfront fee to "guarantee" a loan or clear debts.

A quick checklist before you submit an application

1. Read the privacy notice and find out which firms may receive your information.
2. Ask whether your details will go to one lender or several, and whether any marketing sharing is optional.
3. Check which credit searches may be made and whether they are soft or hard.
4. Borrow only the amount you need—not a larger amount for convenience.
5. Compare APR, monthly payments and total repayable for the offer you are actually given.
6. Check the fees, charges, early repayment terms and what could happen if the rate is variable.
7. Make sure the payment fits your budget after rent or mortgage, bills, food and other essentials.

The bottom line

A credit broker may share your details with lenders and other firms, but the exact recipients and reasons vary. The broker's privacy notice should help you understand the data sharing; if it does not, ask for a clear explanation before applying. Find out about credit searches and marketing separately from the loan assessment.

And keep the borrowing decision in proportion: compare the monthly payment with your budget, check the total repayable and all fees, and borrow only what you need. If the figures do not leave room for your essential costs, consider alternatives or seek free debt advice before signing up.