

# *Fraud Investigation*

## **Local Authority Fraud Investigation: The Implications of the Fraud Act 2006 and the Serious Crime Bill**

**Chaired by: Alan Titheridge**  
**H&F Bridge Partnership**  
**IRRV Council Member**

**Monday 21st May 2007**

**Local Government House, Smith Square, Westminster SW1**

The investigation and prosecution of fraud has recently been highlighted through the inter-departmental Fraud Review. The review, together with recent and proposed legislative changes, including the introduction of The Fraud Act 2006 and the proposed provisions of the Serious Crime Bill, will change the framework under which local authority counter-fraud work operates. In addition to the creation of new offences under The Fraud Act 2006, the Serious Crime Bill sets out new measures that will affect counter-fraud practices including the development of data-sharing within the public sector and between the private and public sectors.

Local authorities will be affected by other provisions in the Serious Crime Bill. These include the introduction of serious crime prevention orders and the creation of offences of encouragement and assistance in crime. In addition, the Assets Recovery Agency functions are to be moved to the Serious Organised Crime Agency and the Proceeds of Crime Act will be amended.

This one-day conference provides an overview of the Fraud Review findings, The Fraud Act 2006 and the Serious Crime Bill and looks at how the provisions will affect the workings of Local Authority fraud teams. The conference will also examine how the proposed provisions sit alongside other relevant strategic issues.

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## WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Heads of Counter Fraud
- Fraud Investigators
- Revenue Managers
- Treasurers
- Auditors
- Police Officers working with Local Authority Fraud Teams

## REGISTRATION

### Online

You can register for this conference online at [www.psstrategies.co.uk](http://www.psstrategies.co.uk)

### Fax / Post

Please complete the enclosed booking form and fax, email or post it to the address shown on the form.

Further booking forms are available from the conference administration team on 01483 203536 or by emailing [benedictbr@btinternet.com](mailto:benedictbr@btinternet.com)

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## SPEAKERS INCLUDE

- Detective Chief Superintendent Steve Wilmott,  
City of London Police and ACPO Fraud Lead Officer
- Alan Titheridge,  
H&F Bridge Partnership and IRRV Council Member
- Felicity Oswald,  
Serious Crime Bill Team, the Home Office
- Kim Neal,  
Barrister
- Steven Philippsohn,  
PCB Litigation LLP
- DWP representative  
Speaker to be confirmed, Department for Work and Pensions
- Malcolm Gardner,  
Counter Fraud Group and Agilisys Ltd

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## MORNING PROGRAMME

9.30      **Registration and Refreshments**

10.30     **Chair's Introduction**

Alan Titheridge, H&F Bridge Partnership  
IRRV Council Member

10.40     **Keynote Address: The Future for Fraud Investigation**

Detective Chief Superintendent Steve Wilmott, City of London Police  
ACPO Fraud Lead Officer

Detective Chief Superintendent Steve Wilmott is responsible for the largest fraud unit in the country and sits on the Attorney General's steering group carrying out the Fraud Review. This keynote address will provide an insight into the impact of current legislation as well as the future direction for fraud investigation taking account of The Fraud Act, the Fraud Review and the Serious Crime Bill.

11.10     **An Introduction to the Serious Crime Bill**

Felicity Oswald, Serious Crime Bill Team, the Home Office

This address will provide an outline of the Government's objectives for the Serious Crime Bill and examine the main provisions and progress of the Bill. It will provide delegates with an outline of the impact that the Serious Crime Bill will have on future anti-fraud practices.

11.40     **Questions**

11.55     **Refreshments**

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## MORNING PROGRAMME

### 12.10 **Asset Recovery by Accredited Financial Investigators – a new power for fraud investigators?**

Speaker to be confirmed

Under the Serious Crime Bill the power to seize financial assets is being transferred to SOCA from the Asset Recovery Agency. In addition, the ability to seize assets is being extended to include accredited financial investigators. This presentation looks at the new regime for asset recovery and the use of the new resource to local authority fraud investigators.

### 12.35 **The Fraud Act 2006, the Provisions for Prevention of Fraud and the Prosecution of Benefit Offences**

Kim Neal, Barrister

In this presentation Kim Neal, a prominent fraud offences barrister, explains the provisions of the Fraud Act 2006 and the Serious Crime Bill and looks at the implication for local authority fraud prosecution.

### 1.00 **Questions to the morning panel**

Questions and discussion with the morning panel, including:

- Detective Chief Superintendent Steve Wilmott, City of London Police & ACPO Fraud Lead Officer
- Felicity Oswald, Serious Crime Bill Team, the Home Office
- Kim Neal, Barrister

### 1.15 **Lunch**

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## **AFTERNOON PROGRAMME**

2.00 **The Future for Intelligence:  
Investigating Fraud, Data Matching and Data Sharing  
under the Serious Crime Bill**

Steven Philippsohn, PCB Litigation LLP

The Serious Crime Bill provides for data matching by an anti-fraud body and enables information to be shared or processed to prevent fraud. It allows data matching to be conducted both in relation to fraud and for other purposes. This is one of several ways in which fraud can be investigated. This presentation will examine some of these ways.

2.30 **Questions**

2.40 **Partnership working under new and proposed legislation**

DWP Representative, Department for Work and Pensions

This address will provide a DWP vision of future partnership working and the impact of the data matching provisions in the Serious Crime Bill. The address will also examine the view of the DWP on new offences under the Fraud Act 2006 and how these compare to Social Security Administration Act offences.

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## **AFTERNOON PROGRAMME**

### **3.10 The Fraud Act and Serious Crime Bill within the wider counter-fraud agenda**

Malcolm Gardner, Counter Fraud Group and Agilisys Ltd

This presentation will provide a conclusion on the effects of legislative changes on local authority fraud investigation and will examine how these changes will fit with other relevant strategic and policy issues such as the DWP's recent advertising campaign, the Home Office guidance on imprisonment and the Fraud Act 2006.

### **3.40 Questions to the afternoon panel**

Questions and discussion with the afternoon panel, including:

- Department for Work and Pensions representative
- Malcolm Gardner, Counter Fraud Group and Agilisys Ltd
- Steven Philippsohn, PCB Litigation LLP

### **4.00 Chair's Closing Remarks**

Alan Titheridge, H&F Bridge Partnership  
IRRV Council Member

### **4.10 Conference Close**

## PSS

Public Sector Strategies has been facilitating and producing conferences for the public sector since 1994, often in partnership with local government and central government agencies and departments. For a list of forthcoming events please visit [www.PSSstrategies.co.uk](http://www.PSSstrategies.co.uk)

### Conference Objectives:

- To focus on new and proposed legislation affecting fraud investigation including provisions of The Fraud Act 2006 and the Serious Crime Bill.
- To examine how new provisions will affect the workings of local authority fraud teams
- To provide an insight into the future direction for fraud investigation taking account of the findings of the Fraud Review.
- To look at the implications for local authority fraud prosecution under the provisions of the Fraud Act 2006 and the Serious Crime Bill.
- To examine the implications of the Serious Crime Bill provisions for data matching by an anti-fraud body and sharing of data on local authority fraud investigations.
- To provide a DWP view on the impact of new legislation, future partnership working and the new offences.
- To examine how changes in fraud offences will fit with other relevant strategic and policy issues governing local authority anti-fraud practices.

### Further Information

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