

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

CFG

The **counter-fraud group (CFG)** has been in existence since 1996. Initially set up as a small email distribution list to allow fraud investigators to exchange good practice and information, it now has over 400 members across local government and the private sector. CFG works in partnership with other bodies such as Public Sector Strategies, The Kier Group, LGA, CIPFA and the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners to aid fraud investigators through good practice guidance, information exchange and high quality training. www.counterfraudgroup.co.uk

Conference Objectives

- To examine local authority prosecution policies in the light of the White Paper "Justice for All"
- To look at the role of prosecution in relation to other sanctions at a time of greater use of alternatives within the criminal justice system
- To examine the impact of prosecution on the local authority, the fraudster and the general public
- To examine the requirements of the courts and prosecuting bodies in relation to prosecution
- To share good practice from local authorities and other bodies regarding prosecution for fraud

Speakers include:

- Professor Michael Levi, Cardiff University
- Peter Lilly, Audit Manager, National Audit Office
- The Home Office, Public Order and Crime Issues Unit
- Monica Bond, Managing Director, Bond Associates
- Jeff Bell, Chief Trading Standards Officer, Redcar & Cleveland Council
- Neil Miller, Maxima International Consultants

Further Information

For further information on this, or other Public Sector Strategy (PSS) conferences, please telephone PSS on **0118 933 2636** or email info@PSSstrategies.co.uk

For booking queries please contact Benedict Business on 01483 203536

PSS AND CFG CONFERENCE

LOCAL AUTHORITY ACTION ON FRAUD – THE ROLE OF PROSECUTION

Chaired by Chris Bull, *Director, BFI*

A one day conference focusing on the role of prosecution in local authority action on fraud. This conference looks at the role of prosecution in the light of proposed changes to fraud prosecution set out in the White Paper "Justice for All" and the greater use in the criminal justice system of alternative sanctions.

The focus of the conference will be to provide information that prosecuting bodies require - whether prosecution is due to fraud in benefits, trading standards offences or by employees. This conference will explore the issues and good practice that affect all involved in this area of the criminal justice system.

Date: Wednesday 30th June 2004

Venue: Local Government House
Conference Centre
Smith Square
London SW1

Who should attend: Chief Officers responsible for fraud prosecution
Members responsible for anti-fraud action
Local Authority Auditors
Fraud Managers
Benefits Investigation Managers
Benefit Investigators
Trading Standard Investigators
Legal Services

LOCAL AUTHORITY ACTION ON FRAUD – THE ROLE OF PROSECUTION

Wednesday 30th June 2004

Local Government House Conference Centre, London SW1

MORNING PROGRAMME

- 9:30 **Registration & Refreshments**
- 10:15 **Chair's Opening Remarks**
Chris Bull, *Director, BFI*
- 10:20 **Keynote Address:**
Prosecution – the considerations for local authorities
Public Order & Crime Issues Unit, the Home Office, speaker tbc
This address will provide a Government view on the issues local authorities need to consider in order to have an effective fraud prosecution policy and strategy. It will outline the view of the Home Office on when prosecution is expected and when alternative sanctions should be considered.
- 10:45 **Does Prosecution Work ?**
Professor Michael Levi, Cardiff University
This session will provide an insight into the results of prosecution and the effect on criminal behaviour. It will look at whether prosecution is the best response for certain investigations and the effectiveness of prosecution and alternative sanctions. This is a timely address in the light of the increasing use of alternatives within the criminal justice system
- 11:10 **Questions and Panel Discussion**
- 11:30 **Refreshment Break**
- 11:45 **Prosecution for High Levels of Soft Fraud – the National Audit Office view of good practice**
Peter Lilly, Audit Manager, National Audit Office
This address provides a view from the national Audit Office on prosecutions by Government Departments for both external and internal fraud. It focuses on the practices of organizations that may have high levels of soft fraud. The session sets out the NAO's experience, expectations and their good practice recommendations.
- 12:10 **Questions**
- 12:20 **The Key Issues for Authorities in Prosecuting Employees**
Neil Miller, Maxima International Consultants
This session will examine the key issues surrounding local authority investigation and prosecution of employees. The session is presented by Maxima International Consultants – an independent organisation specialising in preventing, detecting, investigating and recovering from fraud. Maxima share their experience of advising many local authorities and other public bodies on fraud issues.
- 12.45 **Questions and Panel Discussion**
- 1:00 **Lunch**

AFTERNOON PROGRAMME

- 2.00 **Preparing for Successful Prosecution**
Monica Bond, Managing Director, Bond Associates
In the light of changes to the way fraud will be prosecuted this session looks at the procedural requirements for successful prosecution by authorities. It examines the expectations of courts and prosecuting bodies and looks at the responsibilities and roles of local authority members, senior managers, solicitors and investigators.
- 2:25 **Questions**
- 2:35 **Case Study: A Prosecution Policy in Action**
Clive Parish, London Borough of Greenwich
and Detective Constable Mel Swan, Metropolitan Police
London Borough of Greenwich provides a good practice case study with an innovative police pilot. The session focuses on the considerations of the authority when deciding to prosecute and the procedures and policies required for successful implementation..
- 3:00 **Case Study: Prosecuting for trading standard offences**
Jeff Bell, Chief Trading Standards Officer, Redcar and Cleveland Council
The Chief Trading Standards Officer for Redcar and Cleveland Council provides a case study that looks at the use of prosecution as a sanction by the trading standards department This address provides a good practice example of prosecution policy and practice in trading standards and covers the processes leading to a decision to prosecute.
- 3:25 **Questions and Panel Discussion**
- 3:50 **Chair's closing remarks**
- 4.00 **Close**

Refreshments will be available on departure