

## **PSS**

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## **Conference Objectives**

- To examine post-fraud action, including overpayment recovery, and the role of these actions within the new funding regime and performance indicators
- To focus on overpayments and recovery and their role within the new compliance regime
- To provide an understanding of the relationship between the DWP compliance and fraud teams and local authorities
- To provide appropriate and balanced models of recovery and action
- To provide a practical guide to BFI expectations of recovery

## **Speakers include:**

- Frank Newton, Advisor to the Local Government Association
- Jason Roach, Senior Lecturer in Criminology, University of Huddersfield
- Ian Gibbin, Local Authorities Relationship Manager, Governmental Partnerships Team, Jobcentreplus
- Malcolm Gardner, Counter Fraud Group
- Mike Jenner, Head of Investigations, The Vantis Group
- Stephen King, Benefit Fraud Inspectorate

## **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](mailto:info@PSSstrategies.co.uk)

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# BENEFITS

## **BENEFIT FRAUD AND OVERPAYMENT RECOVERY 2006 THE COMPLIANCE AGENDA AND EMERGING ISSUES**

**Chaired by: Sharon Jones,** Hon Assistant Secretary, IRRV  
Revenues Benefits Manager, Anglia Revenues Partnership

The new funding regime since April 2006 has emphasised compliance over prosecution driven remedial action. This will lead to fundamental changes in local authority policy regarding sanctions and overpayment recovery. Now that compliance is guiding the agenda local authorities will need to define the line between criminal and compliance action as well as increasing the focus on overpayment recovery and re-defining joint-working and referrals with the DWP.

This one-day conference examines the use of recovery within a compliance framework and looks at emerging issues that will have an impact on benefit fraud and overpayment administration. The conference will examine compliance models and look in-depth at the expectations of central government, the DWP and the Auditors towards recovery of overpayments and additional punitive measures under the new regime. New models for working with Jobcentreplus and emerging drivers will be examined.

The conference will assist local authorities in drawing up policies regarding recovery, compliance and sanctions.

**Date:** Monday 17th July 2006

**Venue:** Local Government House  
Smith Square  
London SW1

**Who should attend:** Treasurers  
Revenue Managers  
Benefit Managers  
Benefit Fraud Managers and Officers  
Overpayment Officers  
Auditors

# BENEFIT FRAUD AND OVERPAYMENT RECOVERY

## OBJECTIVES UNDER A COMPLIANCE REGIME

Monday 17th July 2006

Local Government House, Smith Square, London SW1

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### THE MORNING PROGRAMME

10.00 **Registration and Refreshments**

10.30 **Chair's Opening Remarks**

Sharon Jones, Hon Assistant Secretary, IRRV,  
Revenues Benefits Manager, Anglia Revenues Partnership

#### Recovery within the Compliance Agenda

10.35 **Balancing Overpayment Recovery – The Local Authority View**

Frank Newton, Advisor to the Local Government Association

This address provides a view from a local authority perspective on how authorities should balance punishment and recovery with sensible expectations taking account of the new performance indicators and funding regime.

11.05 **Practical Recovery – The Expectation of the BFI**

Stephen King, Performance Development Team, the Benefit Fraud Inspectorate

This presentation will focus on the Benefit Fraud Inspectorate's advice on maximising recovery of overpayment. The focus will be on practical solutions to recovery.

11.35 **Questions**

11.50 **Refreshments**

12.05 **The Role of Asset Recovery in the Recuperation of Overpayment**

Mike Jenner, Head of Investigations, The Vantis Group

This presentation provides an insight into the tracing of funds for recovery purposes and how identified assets can be recovered. The address will provide practical examples of asset recovery in relation to overpayments of local authority benefits.

12.30 **Questions**

#### Future Working Practices with Jobcentreplus

12.35 **The Local Authority Relationship with the DWP Compliance Model**

Ian Gibbin, Local Authorities Relationship Manager, Governmental Partnerships Team, Jobcentreplus

This presentation provides a practical model for the relationship between the DWP and local authorities under the new regime. It looks at models for joint-working and referrals with the DWP compliance team and decision-making regarding referred compliance cases from the Operational Intelligence Unit. The presentation will look at the development of model LSAs for 2006/7 for compliance work.

12.55 **Questions to the Panel**

1.15 **Lunch**

## THE AFTERNOON PROGRAMME

### Emerging Issues

- 2.00 **Understanding Criminality and Re-Offending**  
Jason Roach, Senior Lecturer in Criminology, University of Huddersfield  
In order to work within the compliance regime local authorities will need to define high level fraud and criminality that cannot be dealt with through compliance and recovery. This presentation provides an examination of criminality and in particular looks at re-offending and if compliance measures can reduce criminal re-offending.
- 2.25 **Questions**
- 2.30 **The Compliance Regime within the Crime and Disorder Agenda**  
to be confirmed  
The end of the previous funding regime for fraud action frees local authorities to look at benefit fraud within the local authority crime and disorder agenda. With the cessation of sanction based funding a move to include benefit fraud within a whole-authority approach to crime and disorder is possible. This approach is being explored by some Scottish authorities. This address examines the links across the authority and looks at how this can inform a compliance model.
- 3.00 **Questions**
- 3.05 **Identity Theft**  
Malcolm Gardner, Agilisys & Counter Fraud Group  
There is a renewed emphasis on the threat of identity theft following the recent case involving the tax credit website and the alleged involvement of public sector officers. Malcolm Gardner looks at the issues around the illegal trade in data and the risks of e-government portals in the world of benefit claims.
- 3.30 **Questions and Panel Discussion**
- 3.40 **Chairs Closing Remarks**  
Sharon Jones, Hon Assistant Secretary, IRRV,  
Revenues Benefits Manager, Anglia Revenues Partnership
- 3.45 **Conference End**