

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 the issues for local authorities surrounding the retention, collection and exchange of intelligence between investigation agencies
- to clarify the legal position with regards to the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Human Rights Act in the light of the recent different opinions, quoted in the media, following high-profile failures of data exchange
- to examine the challenge for local authority investigators to manage intelligence sharing within the legal framework
- to ensure that local authority investigation meets the expectations of the Audit Commissioner and the Information Commissioner

Speakers include:

- Richard Bean, Head of Data Protection and Human Rights Department, Walker Morris Solicitors
- Diane Skinner, Information Manager, the Audit Commission
- Ian Axford-Hawkes, Head of Data Compliance in Local Government, Office of the Information Commissioner
- Edwina Withe, Chair, National Association of Data Protection Officers (NADPO)
- Malcolm Gardner, Executive Officer, Counter Fraud Group
- Gary Walters, Public Sector Team, The Metropolitan Police

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

DATA PROTECTION AND LOCAL AUTHORITY INVESTIGATION Challenges to Exchange of Intelligence

Chaired by David Brindle, *Public Services Editor, The Guardian*

A one day conference to examine the key challenges to Local Authority investigators regarding the retention, collection and exchange of intelligence

Date: Monday 17th May 2004

Venue: Local Government House
Conference Centre
Smith Square
London SW1

Who should attend: Local Authority Chief Officers
Local Authority Auditors
Heads of Benefits Investigation
Local Authority Investigators
Trading Standards Investigators
Legal Services
Data Protection Officers
Owners of Data Warehouses

DATA PROTECTION AND LOCAL AUTHORITY INVESTIGATION

Challenges to Exchange of Intelligence

Monday 17th May 2004

Local Government House Conference Centre, London SW1

MORNING PROGRAMME

- 9:30 **Registration & Refreshments**
- 10:15 **Chair's Opening Remarks**
David Brindle, *Public Services Editor, The Guardian*
- 10:20 **The Current Position: A view from the Office of the Information Commissioner**
Ian Axford-Hawkes, Head of Data Compliance in Local Government, Office of the Information Commissioner

This address will provide the view of the Office of the Information Commissioner on the different interpretations of legal data exchange between agencies in the light of recent publicity. It will provide an overview of new legislation – including case law and EU directives – and new guidance. It will address how the OIC works with local authorities to facilitate clarification and good practice.
- 10:55 **Questions**
- 11:05 **Challenges for Local Authorities**
Edwina Withe, Chair National Association of Data Protection Officers (NADPO)

This session focuses on the challenges to local authorities in complying with the Data Protection Act and how this shapes policies around information sharing and joint working. It examines the impact of adherence on the business of a complex regulated body such as a local authority. It will look at the key issues from a local authority viewpoint and provide an overview on how local authorities should hold and exchange data to ensure good practice and efficient investigation.
- 11:40 **Questions**
- 11:50 **Refreshments**
- 12:05 **A Good Practice Guide on Intelligence Exchange**
Diane Skinner, Information Manager, Audit Commission

The Audit Commission is involved in the examination of data held by local authorities and runs a number of data matching exercises through NFI. The session covers what the Audit Commission does with its own data warehouses and what it expects of local authorities. It also examines the overarching necessities of intelligence exchange between bodies the Audit Commission inspects including local authorities, NHS and Police.
- 12:40 **Questions and Panel Discussion**
- 12:50 **Lunch**

AFTERNOON PROGRAMME

- 1:50 **Legal Considerations – avoiding problems**
Richard Bean, Head of Data Protection Department, Walker Morris Solicitors

This session looks at how legal challenges to local authority data handling can be avoided, including challenges for failing to have used intelligence which could have avoided a greater crime. This session examines case law from the UK and EU and advises on how to avoid some legal "potholes".
- 2:25 **Questions**
- 2:35 **Efficient Information Sharing for Fraud Investigation**
Malcolm Gardner, Executive Officer, The Counter-Fraud Group

This session will examine the key issues surrounding information exchange for the local authority investigator. It will focus on the challenges that can confront an investigation and suggest procedures for overcoming these obstacles.
- 3:00 **The Police View: Information Sharing with Regulated Investigators**
Detective Inspector Gary Walters, Public Sector Team, The Metropolitan Police

Efficient exchange of information between local authority investigators and the police is vital for efficient investigation. Information sharing practices are locally agreed and vary between local authority and force areas. This session looks at information sharing and joint working under Data Protection legislation and provides good practice examples of how the police can accommodate information sharing with regulated investigators.
- 3:30 **Questions**
- 3:40 **Working with Investigators: Forum**
Panel Includes:
 - Stuart Harvey, Head of Data Protection Act Services, Royal Mail Group plc.
 - Representative from Equifax
 - Data Manager, The Bank of Scotland
A forum for questioning representatives of organisations that have to deal with constant requests for information about their customers or the data warehoused by their companies. This session will provide a valuable space for delegates to receive advice from national organisations on their data sharing policies.
- 4:15 **Chair's closing remarks**
- 4:20 **Close**

Refreshments will be available on departure