



PUBLIC SECTOR COUNTER FRAUD AWARDS 2025

12TH MARCH – QEII CENTRE,
WESTMINSTER, LONDON

IN COLLABORATION WITH:



Public Sector
Fraud Authority

ORGANISED BY:

GOVNET

FRAUD

Thank you to our Sponsors



CLUE



#FRAUDAWARDS25

Welcome to the Public Sector Counter Fraud Awards 2025

In collaboration with



Public Sector
Fraud Authority

As we mark the 5th anniversary of these prestigious awards, we celebrate the outstanding achievements of counter-fraud professionals across the public sector during a pivotal time in our fight against fraud.

2025 represents a year of significant transformation in our field. We are better equipped than ever to protect public funds and services. Yet as economic challenges persist and fraud risks evolve, the dedication and innovation of counter-fraud professionals has never been more crucial.

These awards recognise some of the exceptional individuals and teams who have risen to meet these challenges. From groundbreaking use of AI and data analytics to meticulous investigations and fraud prevention strategies, your work has directly contributed to protecting public funds and ensuring vital services reach those who truly need them. Your combined efforts demonstrate that while the challenge may be vast, our commitment to tackling it is greater still.

Tonight, we celebrate not only those nominated for awards, but also every counter-fraud professional working tirelessly across the public sector. Success in this field depends on collaboration, shared expertise and collective determination. The achievements we recognise this evening reflect the wider community of dedicated professionals who work-day in, day-out to protect public services.

Welcome to an evening of celebrating excellence in public sector counter-fraud.

Mark Cheeseman OBE, Public Sector Fraud Authority Chief Executive

Our Award Categories for 2025:

- ★ Apprentice / Newcomer of the Year
- ★ Champion for Culture & Inclusion
- ★ Female Pioneer of the Year
- ★ GCFP Member of the Year
- ★ Innovation in Fraud Prevention
- ★ Local Excellence
- ★ Outstanding Contribution
- ★ Outstanding Leadership
- ★ Outstanding NHS Initiative
- ★ Public / Private Partnership Excellence
- ★ Team of the Year

Thank you to our Judges

Our eight independent judges faced the challenging task of selecting finalists and winners for the Awards, considering the exceptional nominees and remarkable achievements that were submitted. **Thank you to them for their time and support.**



Dr Elisabeth Carter

Associate Professor of Criminology
Kingston University



Prof. Mark Button

Director of the Centre for Counter Fraud Studies
University of Portsmouth



Dave Magrath

Director, Investigation and
Enforcement Services
The Insolvency Service



Jen Owens

Head of Counter Fraud,
Government Internal Audit Agency



Michael Cassel

Counter Fraud Manager,
Audit & Investigation Service
London Borough of Brent



Holly Lawton

Deputy Director, Finance & Provider Market
Oversight (Counter Fraud & Prevention)
Education & Skills Funding Agency



Lucy Appleton

Deputy Director Strategy Implementation
& Assurance, Fraud, Error and Debt
Department for Work and Pensions,
Counter Fraud & Compliance Directorate



Steve Moss

Head of Anti-Crime – Audit
Yorkshire – York and Scarborough Teaching
Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Outstanding NHS Initiative

SHORTLISTED:

Alun Gordon, Lead Local Counter Fraud Specialist (LCFS) for Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust and former Lead at Wirral Community Health & Care NHS Foundation Trust

Alun Gordon transformed our anti-fraud culture by introducing a localised fraud prevention e-learning package in January 2024. Collaborating with senior leadership and the Northern Care Alliance NHS Trust, he designed interactive training, short fraud/cyber videos, and a points-based assessment on key fraud risks. His VLOGs, quizzes, and site visits enhanced engagement, with 97% of staff completing training and quiz participation rising yearly. His efforts increased awareness, transparency, and compliance, embedding a strong anti-fraud culture across our Trust. Alun's innovations ensure all staff—new and long-serving—are educated on fraud prevention, reducing financial risks for the NHS.

Enterprise Fraud Risk Assessment (EFRA) Project Group, NHS Counter Fraud Authority

The Enterprise Fraud Risk Assessment (EFRA) Project Group united key health sector bodies to strategically assess and mitigate fraud risks across England's public healthcare system. Aligning with GovS 013: Counter Fraud, the team developed high-quality EFRA templates, now shared by the Public Sector Fraud Authority (PSFA) as best practice. This collaboration enhanced cross-sector fraud prevention, saved resources, and informed future strategy development. The initiative's success extends beyond healthcare, supporting wider government bodies in conducting EFRAs. By fostering knowledge-sharing and innovation, the group has significantly strengthened the UK's counter fraud landscape, ensuring sustainable and effective fraud risk management.

Outstanding NHS Initiative

SHORTLISTED:

Nationwide Recruitment Fraud Risk, NHS Fraud and Security Management Service

The Fraud and Security Management Service tackled fraudulent English language certificates used by international nurses to secure NHS employment. Their investigations led to nationwide process improvements, including mandatory verification checks with IELTS and OET, preventing fraud before hiring. Collaborating with NHS bodies, regulatory authorities, and international partners, they issued guidance, improved recruitment protocols, and raised national awareness. Their work has prevented over £313,000 in fraud, led to multiple sanctions, and strengthened patient safety by ensuring only qualified nurses join the NHS. Their success has set a national standard, deterring future fraud and improving healthcare recruitment integrity.



Innovation in Fraud Prevention

SHORTLISTED:

Sponsored by SAS



Counter Fraud & Compliance

- Enhanced Review Team
- Department for Work and Pensions

The Enhanced Review Team (ERT) proactively stops benefit fraud, saving in excess of £530m annually. Initially tackling fraudulent Universal Credit (UC) claims, ERT now focuses on prevention, collaborating with UC Design to block high-risk returning claims. A successful trial resulted in an 86% fraud prevention rate by implementing an automated payment blocker for repeat fraudulent claims. By integrating technology and intelligence, ERT enhances fraud detection, reducing overpayments and securing the public purse. Their innovative approach streamlines UC processes, ensuring legitimate claims are unaffected while deterring fraudsters from re-entering the system.

DfT's Data Science (Advanced Data Analytics Division) and DfT Group Finance (Financial Control and Counter Fraud) Teams

The Department for Transport (DfT) has pioneered the use of AI to proactively combat fraud in public sector grant schemes. DfT's Data Science and Financial Control and Counter Fraud Teams collaborated to develop AI-powered algorithms targeting these risks. This AI-led innovation saved over 100 years of manual verification work and recovered tens of thousands of pounds in fraudulent claims.

Integrated Risk & Intelligence Service (IRIS) - Department for Work and Pensions

The Integrated Risk & Intelligence Service (IRIS) in DWP's Counter Fraud and Compliance Directorate is a centre of excellence for fraud prevention and detection. Using advanced analytics; including machine learning; IRIS develops innovative fraud prevention solutions, including developing a real-time fraud detection model, saving millions and improving efficiency. Their work has set new public sector standards and insights gained inform DWP's long-term strategy for leveraging data and technology in fraud prevention.

Innovation in Fraud Prevention

SHORTLISTED:

Sponsored by SAS



Counter Fraud Data Analytics Programme - Network Rail Counter Fraud & Investigation Services Team

Network Rail's Counter Fraud Data Analytics Programme is an initiative launched by the Counter Fraud and Investigation Service team at Network Rail. Its primary objective is to exploit data engineering and data science to proactively detect and prevent fraud in high-risk processes, as identified by our Fraud Risk Assessment Programme. Although only one year old, it has already delivered significant results and more than recovered its development costs. To date, the programme has identified over £100,000 in fraud recoverables and has prevented nearly £300,000 in potential future fraud losses.

Oxford Investigation Service - Oxford City Council

Oxford Investigation Service (OIS) leads fraud prevention for Oxford City Council with innovative initiatives. It pioneered an in-team Data Manager, the only UK authority to develop this role, driving technological advancements. A Tenure Prediction tool identifies private rented properties evading Oxford's Selective Licensing scheme, ensuring compliance and improving housing quality. This tool will be offered to other councils running similar schemes in an effort to ensure a consistent and robust approach across borders. OIS also developed fraud detection algorithms, protecting public funds and enhancing services through data-driven efficiency. OIS is known for regularly delivering exceptional results with more than £57 million in financial outcomes since 2014 and 234 misused social housing properties recovered.



Champion for Culture & Inclusion

SHORTLISTED:

Counter Fraud, Compliance and Debt, NDAS Delivery Hub – DWP

The Delivery Hub prioritises diversity, inclusion, and empowerment, fostering an environment where all colleagues can contribute and thrive. Key initiatives include the award-winning Aspire Programme, which supports career development for underrepresented groups, and CFCD Fest, an accessible virtual event that broadens participation. A Continuous Improvement Strategy ensures open communication, professional development, and a customer-centric approach. Future plans focus on inclusive leadership, accessibility improvements, and expanding Aspire, reinforcing a culture where every team member feels valued and supported.

Integrated Risk & Intelligence Service (IRIS) - DWP

IRIS has embedded diversity and inclusion into its core culture through initiatives like Reverse Mentoring, Listening Circles, and participation in CFCD working groups. By fostering open dialogue, empowering underrepresented colleagues, and creating safe spaces, IRIS has seen increased confidence, career progression, and wider organisational impact as well as creating a fantastic team culture.

Melody Bell-Barnard, HMRC Fraud Investigation Service, Change Practitioner, HMRC

Melody has been a champion for diversity and inclusion in HMRC's counter-fraud services for nearly 30 years. As one of the first female ethnic minority fraud investigators, she has led efforts to break down barriers, improve representation, and foster inclusion. Her "coffee roulette" initiative combats workplace isolation, while her advocacy for ethnic minority career progression has inspired real change. Melody continues to drive initiatives that build an inclusive, supportive, and diverse workplace culture.

Apprentice or Newcomer of the Year

SHORTLISTED:

Sponsored by Intelligencia



Isabella Naylor, Investigation Officer, Counter Fraud and Investigation team, Government Internal Audit Agency

Isabella has demonstrated exceptional skill, adaptability, and commitment in her role as a Counter Fraud Apprentice. Her ability to absorb knowledge, support colleagues, and confidently engage with senior leaders and external audiences sets her apart. She excels in both independent investigations and team collaboration, consistently exceeding expectations. Her proactive approach to learning, problem-solving mindset, and dedication to improving processes make her an invaluable asset. With outstanding feedback from her coach and colleagues, Issy's rapid progression, including securing promotion before completing her apprenticeship, is a testament to her hard work, resilience, and leadership potential.

Maisie Wade, Counter Fraud Officer, Referral and Scheduling Team, Government Internal Audit Agency

Maisie has demonstrated exceptional analytical ability, professionalism, and dedication in her role within CF&I. Her skill in handling complex data, making informed decisions, and streamlining processes has had a tangible impact on efficiency and effectiveness. She is highly respected for her ability to balance sensitivity with objectivity when dealing with whistleblowers and stakeholders, ensuring trust and clarity in her communications. Maisie consistently steps up, going above and beyond to thoughtfully support colleagues in delivery, with a fantastic attitude.

Apprentice or Newcomer of the Year

SHORTLISTED:

Sponsored by Intelligencia



Matthew Peter Dales, Regional Investigations Officer, BEDS & HERTS Investigations Department for Work & Pensions

Matthew has demonstrated exceptional dedication, resilience, and skill in his role as an investigator in training. Despite balancing his apprenticeship alongside his responsibilities, he has excelled in Interviews Under Caution, earning the respect of both suspects and colleagues for his empathetic yet detail-focused approach. His commitment to professional development is evident in his willingness to step outside his comfort zone, mastering new skills and even speaking at high-profile events. Beyond his own growth, Matt actively supports colleagues, mentors fellow apprentices, and advocates for counter fraud initiatives.

William Kenny, Economic Crime Manager, Department for Culture, Media and Sport

William has made an extraordinary impact since joining the Civil Service, seamlessly transitioning from policing to counter fraud with remarkable effectiveness. His analytical skills have directly led to the detection and initiation of recovery of significant fraud and error losses, and his expertise is widely recognised across the department. William's ability to manage complex investigations, build trust with stakeholders, and challenge decisions with integrity sets him apart. His proactive approach, leadership in stalled initiatives, and commitment to continuous learning—through CIPFA qualifications and data analytics training—further highlight his exceptional potential.

GCFP Member of the Year

SHORTLISTED:

In Collaboration with PSFA



Public Sector
Fraud Authority

Becki Boyes, Senior Fraud Risk Officer, NHSCFA

Becki has been a driving force in counter fraud, demonstrating exceptional dedication and expertise in fraud risk assessment and fraud loss measurement. Her leadership in the NHS-wide EFRA project has set a new benchmark, ensuring compliance with PSFA requirements while pioneering new methodologies. Becki's collaborative approach, mentoring, and advocacy for the GCFP have significantly strengthened the profession

"If ever there was an example of how passion, hard work, learning and support can achieve so much in two years then Becki Boyes, NHSCFA is that person. She and her colleagues are trailblazers in the field of fraud risk assessment, key to effective fraud prevention." Tim Barlow

Sandra Simms, Investigator, Counter Fraud and Investigation team (CF&I), Government Internal Audit Agency (GIAA)

Sandra has demonstrated exceptional dedication, expertise, and leadership in counter fraud investigations. She has successfully progressed complex cases, identified and addressed control weaknesses, and delivered significant financial recoveries and prevented losses. Her professionalism and engagement with stakeholders have strengthened processes and improved fraud prevention efforts. Sandra's mentorship of apprentices has directly contributed to their success, increasing the department's investigative capacity. Her innovative approaches, thorough analysis, and ability to challenge and influence best practices make her a standout candidate for GCFP Member of the Year. Sandra's impact is widely recognized, and her contributions are invaluable.

GCFP Member of the Year

SHORTLISTED:

In Collaboration with PFSA



Public Sector
Fraud Authority

Shelley Osborne, Fraud Prevention Officer, Lambeth Council

Shelley Osborne has made a significant impact as Fraud Prevention Officer at Lambeth Council, where she quickly developed and implemented a fraud risk assessment program. Her work during Fraud Awareness Week 2023 stands out, including revamped e-learning, animated videos, and a first-ever fraud awareness survey. Shelley also introduced a structured fraud risk assessment process, which has been widely praised by management. Beyond her role, Shelley advocates for the GCFP, encouraging other councils to follow Lambeth's example. She is a dedicated team player, always willing to assist colleagues and share her expertise. Shelley has been a huge part of the GCFP Practitioner Group and Chair supporting with feedback to the GCFP board and PSFA. Shelley is also supporting with the development of the new Fraud Control Apprenticeship.



Female Pioneer of the Year

SHORTLISTED:

Sponsored by Clue

CLUE

Erica Thompson, Head of Economic, Serious & Organised Crime (ESOC), DWP

Erica has transformed the department through strategic leadership and hands-on involvement in criminal investigations. She completed accredited training and actively participated in field activities, building trust with her team. Erica led the expansion of ESOC, developed DWP's first victims' strategy, and introduced a structured fraud risk assessment process. She played a key role in DWP's response to COVID-19-related fraud and initiated cultural changes to prioritize prevention. Erica's leadership during high-profile cases, including Operation Volcanic, and her international collaborations, have significantly enhanced DWP's effectiveness in tackling complex fraud.

Kelly Murphy, DWP Counter Fraud and Compliance

Kelly successfully led the creation of the Enhanced Checking Service (ECS) team during the pandemic, rapidly reviewing Universal Credit claims and saving taxpayer money. She later developed the Enhanced Review Team (ERT), DWP's largest counter-fraud function, achieving over £0.5 billion in savings each year. Kelly is known for her exceptional ability to adapt, build strong partnerships, and drive a culture of flexibility. She pioneered data-driven fraud identification and reorganized her team to tackle high-risk cases swiftly. Her leadership, commitment to team development, and work ethic make her an outstanding candidate for Female Pioneer of the Year.

Laura Piggott, Counter Fraud Manager, London Borough of Hillingdon

Laura leads the Housing Investigation Unit at the London Borough of Hillingdon, overseeing the council's response to housing fraud. With a background in housing management, she has built a reputation as an industry leader. Laura has pioneered proactive fraud prevention measures, including creating bespoke data-matching reports and participating in national initiatives. Her innovative approach, commitment to training, and leadership earned her a position on the Executive Committee of the London Boroughs' Fraud Investigators' Group.

Local Excellence

SHORTLISTED:

Corporate Anti-Fraud Team, London Borough of Waltham Forest Council

The Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT) at the London Borough of Waltham Forest has demonstrated exceptional performance in tackling fraud across various council services. They investigated all corporate and internal fraud, resulting in staff dismissals, successful prosecutions and achieved outstanding property recovery figures. CAFT's proactive approach, including data matching initiatives and collaboration with external partners, led to over £1 million in savings. Their leadership in the NFI London Fraud Hub has fostered collaboration, driving substantial fraud detection and prevention across local authorities.

Counter Fraud Team – London Borough of Hillingdon

The Counter Fraud Team (CFT) at Hillingdon Council has been highly successful in using a proactive, risk-based approach to fraud prevention and recovery. The team focuses on tenancy fraud, homelessness fraud, and income maximisation, achieving significant results. This is the second consecutive year the team has exceeded £11 million in savings. Their proactive residency checks in homelessness accommodation have further reduced fraud. CFT's approach, including collaboration with other local authorities, has made a lasting impact by promoting best practices in counter-fraud efforts.



Local Excellence

SHORTLISTED:

Devon Assurance Partnership (DAP)

The Devon Assurance Partnership (DAP), a formal shared service collaboration between Devon County Council, District Councils and Unitary Councils. DAP linked with Liberata and successfully addressed fraud risks and maximised Council Tax revenue. They provide professional assurance services including internal audit, counter fraud, risk management, consultancy, governance and business improvement. Their purpose is to better the lives of people and help organisations that they work.

London Boroughs' Fraud Investigators' Group (LBFIG)

The London Borough's Fraud Investigators Group (LBFIG) is a collaborative partnership that supports over 200 counter fraud professionals from all 32 London Boroughs and the City of London Corporation, as well as affiliates from Housing Associations and Home Counties Local Authority fraud teams. LBFIG plays a crucial role in fostering best practices, delivering CPD training, and acting as a strong voice for London Borough counter fraud teams.



Outstanding Contribution

SHORTLISTED:

Alun Gordon, Lead Local Counter Fraud Specialist (LCFS) for Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust and former Lead at Wirral Community Health & Care NHS Foundation Trust

Alun has made exceptional efforts in enhancing the counter fraud culture at Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust and nationally within the NHS. Since 2020, Alun has modernised fraud prevention using digital tools, VLOGs, and interactive e-learning, significantly increasing staff engagement and awareness. His initiatives have led to a fivefold rise in declarations of interest and a 97% completion rate of fraud training. Additionally, his national contributions to the NHSCFA Fraud Hub have strengthened NHS fraud prevention strategies.

Alex Cleland, Implementation lead, Anti-Money Laundering, Investigation and Enforcement Services, The Insolvency Service

Alex played a pivotal role as Implementation Lead in enhancing the UK's fight against corporate money laundering. He developed new policies, intelligence teams, and enforcement processes. He built strong partnerships with Companies House and the Department for Business and Trade, aligning efforts with key economic crime reforms. Alex led the implementation of a new intelligence database, secured private sector datasets, and championed the use of POCA powers to seize assets. His work has resulted in £50m in criminal property seizures, £22m in unexplained wealth identified, and major enforcement actions across the UK.

Dr Elisabeth Carter, Vice President, International Society of Economic Criminology

Elisabeth is a leading force in tackling economic crime, revolutionising how fraud is understood as a form of grooming and manipulation. She collaborates across policing, banking, government, and charities, shaping fraud prevention policies, training officers, and advising on major campaigns. Her insights influence legislation, financial regulations, and victim support strategies, ensuring real change. Her groundbreaking work has led to higher custodial sentences, enhanced victim protections, and improved fraud reporting.

Outstanding Contribution

SHORTLISTED:

Jane Ward, CFCD Admin, Case Prep and Compliance Functional Teams Leader, Department for Work and Pensions

Jane Ward is a dedicated and influential leader, driving success in both Compliance and Case Prep and the CFEMS project, a major case management system transition for 6,000 users. Her expertise, problem-solving skills, and teamwork have been instrumental in system implementation and workflow reductions, particularly in FRAIMS migration, where she led efforts to reduce cases from 200k to 40k, ensuring a smooth transition. She is a trusted advisor, strategic thinker, and problem solver, influencing training, efficiency, and user experience. Jane's commitment, leadership, and resilience make her an outstanding contributor to CFCD's success.

Mark Sutcliffe, Head of NZ Buildings Counter Fraud Function, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

Mark has been a pioneering leader in counter-fraud for over four decades, transforming fraud management across central government. At HMRC, he led digital innovations like FEAST and HEAL, significantly improving fraud prevention and case management. He played a key role in data-sharing initiatives, driving cultural change and enabling better fraud detection across government. During the pandemic, Mark advised multiple departments on fraud risks, ensuring secure economic stimulus delivery. His work on the Green Homes Grant prevented substantial misspending, setting an industry benchmark. Mark's strategic vision, innovation, and leadership continue to shape national fraud prevention and detection efforts.

Richard Rippin, Associate Director for Operational Services, NHS Counter Fraud Authority

Richard is an exceptional leader and investigator, dedicated to protecting NHS resources from fraud. With over 35 years in counter-fraud, he has led a 25% increase in fund recovery, securing £12.28m in 2022-2023 alone. His successful prosecutions, including a £600,000 fraud case, demonstrate his tenacity, strategic thinking, and commitment to justice. Richard's leadership, problem-solving skills, and unwavering dedication inspire his teams and strengthen fraud prevention efforts, ensuring vital NHS funds support patient care, staff, and life-saving equipment.

Outstanding Leadership

SHORTLISTED:

Alex Rothwell, Chief Executive, NHS Counter Fraud Authority

Alex has imbued the NHS Counter Fraud Authority and staff with his infectious passion for identifying, protecting and preventing fraud. An inspirational leader, he motivates staff to excel in their fields through recognising talent, encouraging independence and inclusion and demonstrating that he values all opinions and ideas.

Under his guidance, the NHSCFA, in collaboration with its wider health partners, has exceeded its initial targets by some distance. Of particular note is the £500 million saved with the sector for the NHS in the last strategic period, which surpassed the £400 million target and saw a 25% increase in both fraud reduction and the recovery of funds lost to fraud.

Alex's leadership style fosters a culture of trust, inclusion, and empowerment, ensuring that staff feel valued, motivated, and engaged despite significant internal changes.

Helen Swan, CFCD UC SIL Team Leader, Department for Work and Pensions

A shining example of brilliant, strong and compassionate leadership - Helen Swan – was the founder of the Counter Fraud Compliance and Debt (CFCD) Universal Credit (UC) Service Innovation Lead (SIL) team in 2021. Since then, the team has grown and now stands at 15 SILs and 3 Team Leaders and is a small virtual Team supporting 9500 colleagues across all CFCD workstreams with UC issues, guidance and culture change. Helen epitomises DWP values- She cares, she delivers, she adapts, she works together, and she values everybody. She personifies service excellence, driving change, ever evolving, always challenging and continuously improving.

Outstanding Leadership

SHORTLISTED:

Lisa Tonge, CFCD Commercial and Finance Lead, UCCF, Department for Work and Pensions

Lisa is a force of nature. Upbeat positivity runs through her veins, radiating to her teams to drive forward changes. Her leadership is second to none, doesn't feel like management, you just get sucked into her forcefield for change. She has transformed multiple high-profile projects within DWP Counter Fraud, Compliance, and Debt (CFCD). She has successfully spearheaded critical process improvements for Universal Credit, relentlessly working with policy, legal, and operational teams to deliver sustainable change. Her work on the Quality Framework for Pension Credit has resulted in major operational improvements, and her impact extends to the Commercial & Finance Team, where she has streamlined processes and enhanced workforce engagement.

Scott Warner, Counter-Fraud Manager, Oxford Investigation Service - Oxford City Council

Scott has led the Oxford City Council Counter-Fraud Team since 2014, transforming it into the highly successful Oxford Investigation Service (OIS). Under his leadership, the team has delivered £57m in tangible benefits, recovered 234 unlawfully used council properties, and stopped over 270 fraudulent Right to Buy applications. His commitment to staff development, risk-taking, and excellence has earned the team over ten awards, securing OIS's reputation as a leader in counter-fraud efforts.



Public - Private Partnership Excellence

SHORTLISTED:

Clue Software and NHSCFA

Since 2018, Clue Software and the NHS Counter Fraud Authority (NHSCFA) have transformed fraud detection and investigation across the NHS.

Clue standardises case management for over 400 users and 450 teams, ensuring compliance and real-time visibility of fraud risks. By centralising intelligence, enhancing collaboration, and identifying financial threats, Clue empowers NHSCFA to recover millions in NHS funds.

This partnership exemplifies the power of technology in protecting healthcare resources, driving accountability, and strengthening the fight against fraud.

NECC Public Private Partnerships JMLIT+, Tax Crime and Evasion Threat Group, Organised Labour Fraud cell, co-chaired by HSBC and HMRC

The NECC Joint Money Laundering Intelligence Taskforce (JMLIT+) includes four Threat Groups; Fraud, Illicit Finance, Terrorist Financing and the Tax Crime and Evasion Threat Group (TCETG). These groups co-ordinate and set joint priorities to respond to, identify, and commission joint activity preventing and disrupting crime. The TCETG was the first of its kind worldwide bringing together Public and Private expertise, to tackle tax threats. Co-chaired by Santander and HMRC, unprecedented public-private trust, joined-up strategy, and collaboration on tax threats underpin the success of this partnership. It provides safe places for open collaboration on tax fraud, where none previously existed, allowing information and strategy sharing to combine government data with real-time financials.

Public - Private Partnership Excellence

SHORTLISTED:

Synectics Solutions, LBFIG and the NFI Polygamous Working Initiative

The National Fraud Initiative (NFI) successfully addressed the emerging fraud risk of polygamous working, where individuals fraudulently claim multiple salaries from different public sector organisations. Collaborating with London Boroughs' Fraud Investigators and private sector Employment Agencies (EAs) and Managed Service Providers (MSPs), a new data matching logic was developed using existing NFI tools to detect this fraud across both full-time and agency staff. The project identified 22 confirmed frauds and uncovered £489,775.60 in overpayments. It has led to a broader strategy for incorporating private sector data into the NFI, aiming to roll out the matching service nationwide, enhancing fraud prevention across the public sector.



Team of the Year

SHORTLISTED:

Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT) - London Borough of Barnet

The Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT) is a specialised unit within the council dedicated to safeguarding public funds. They employ a proactive approach to prevent, detect, and investigate fraudulent activities, ensuring that the council's resources are used ethically and transparently. In the last financial year CAFT has recovered 41 social housing properties that were being illegally occupied, saving the council approximately £1.3 million in temporary accommodation costs. Additionally, the team has prevented 12 fraudulent right-to-buy applications, safeguarding £1.5 million in housing assets.

DESNZ Energy Affordability Fraud and Error Team

The Energy Affordability Fraud and Error team, established in 2023, played a key role in mitigating fraud and error risks associated with energy affordability schemes. By collaborating with multiple stakeholders, including energy regulators, the Public Sector Fraud Authority and other key governmental partners, the team designed and implemented robust fraud controls, resulting in fraud and error levels of only 0.67% (£292m) of a £44 billion spend. Their proactive approach, including gap analysis, quality assurance, and bespoke training, significantly improved fraud and error management. The team's success has created a strong counter-fraud culture in DESNZ, ensuring future resilience and safeguarding public funds.



Team of the Year

SHORTLISTED:

FIS, Economic Crime Operations, HMRC

HMRC's Economic Crime Operations Team has achieved outstanding results in asset recovery and fraud prevention, recovering £786 million over three years. Through innovative initiatives like the Meteor indemnity project, the team has tackled large-scale fraud, recovering £360 million. Their collaboration with international partners and involvement in the European Network for Financial Investigations (ENFIN) has enhanced global fraud-fighting efforts. The team's commitment to staff development, innovation, and continuous improvement has fostered a culture of success.

HMRC and Gangmasters Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA) Counter-Fraud Partnership

The HMRC/GLAA Counter-Fraud Partnership is the epitome of how effective partnership working can increase capability and capacity to counter and tackle fraud. The work of the Partnership team has been vital in protecting the integrity of labour in food supply chains, whilst collecting additional tax of £93m to date. In addition to tackling and disrupting fraud, the Partnership team has also been pivotal in protecting vulnerable workers from exploitation and preventing societal harm. The Partnership model we have developed is now being used as a blueprint, supporting, and informing development of other cross-government partnerships.

NHSCFA Fraud Hub

The NHSCFA launched the Fraud Hub, uniting local and central NHS counter fraud teams to tackle fraud more effectively. Providing expertise and support, the Hub helped health bodies protect a £190 billion budget, offering guidance in fraud investigation, prevention, and risk assessment. It also ensures collaboration between proactive and reactive counter fraud teams to deliver improved financial outcomes and sanctions, help health bodies prevent fraud and recover NHS funds taken through fraud. The relationship is advisory and supportive but challenging where necessary. The Fraud Hub has streamlined processes, fostered new partnerships, and acted on improvement suggestions, delivering a positive impact on NHS counter fraud operations.

Team of the Year

SHORTLISTED:

Operation Volcanic Investigation Team – Economic Serious and Organised Crime, Department for Work and Pensions

The HMRC/GLAA Counter-Fraud Partnership is the epitome of how effective partnership working can increase capability and capacity to counter and tackle fraud. The work of the Partnership team has been vital in protecting the integrity of labour in food supply chains, whilst collecting additional tax of £93m to date. In addition to tackling and disrupting fraud, the Partnership team has also been pivotal in protecting vulnerable workers from exploitation and preventing societal harm. The Partnership model we have developed is now being used as a blueprint, supporting, and informing development of other cross-government partnerships.

The North East ROCU High Harm Investigation Team

The North East ROCU High Harm Investigation Team is dedicated to tackling Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) whose criminality impacts upon the North East region, with a particular focus on Fraud, Serious Organised Acquisitive Crime and Drugs. The team is committed to identifying those criminals who target the most vulnerable members of our communities, arresting them, and bringing them before the courts. This sends a robust message to OCGs that the North East region is a hostile environment for travelling criminals. Over the past year, HHIT has arrested and convicted OCG members, implementing proactive operations like Op Blue Mountain to combat Courier, and Romance Fraud, and have developed a successful strategy against County Lines drug dealing.

The background is a solid red color. It features several large, faint, concentric circular patterns that resemble ripples or orbits. Scattered throughout the background are numerous small, bright red starburst or spark-like effects, giving it a festive or celebratory feel.

Thank You
See You Again Next Year!