



Fighting Fraud Together Quarterly Update – October 2012

In October 2011, the **National Fraud Authority (NFA)** published ***Fighting Fraud Together (FFT)*** the national strategic plan to reduce fraud. FFT is a shared enterprise on behalf of all sectors; public, private, voluntary and law enforcement - to improve our collective response to fraud and the damage it causes to individuals and the economy.

FFT set out a new approach with the ambition that:

“By 2015 our country will be demonstrably more resilient to and less damaged by fraud”.

This will be achieved through the delivery of three strategic objectives:

- i) **AWARENESS**;
- ii) **PREVENTION**; and
- iii) **ENFORCEMENT**.

Work is ongoing in each of these areas to improve our shared response to existing and emerging threats.

To coincide with the FFT strategy being one year on, its [programme of activity](#) is being refreshed, highlighting what projects have already been delivered under the strategy, whilst providing updates on existing, and new projects.

Additionally, the NFA will produce updates on the detailed programme of activity underpinning FFT throughout the lifetime of the strategy.

Awareness:

To increase fraud awareness and create a zero tolerance culture towards fraud in the public sector the **National Fraud Authority (NFA)** has created materials for each government department to run their own *Fraud: Spot It, Stop It!* campaign. The campaign aims to raise staff awareness of their role in preventing fraud, and promotes the mandatory counter fraud and corruption e-learning. Over the last few months the NFA have been working closely with the Fraud Error and Debt Champions across Government to fix dates for campaigns. As a result, between September and December 2012 there will be 16 central government departments rolling out this activity.

The NFA in partnership with the **Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS)** are using a [segmentation analysis](#) to explore attitudes, behaviours and risk levels to fraud and internet crime across Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs). Planning has already begun to target the first SME segment, in order to help increase insight and understanding, and to enable the development of plans and prevention strategies.

Additionally, the SME segmentation analysis is underpinning an overarching national cyber security communications strategy for 2013-2015, with the aim of measurably improving both the online confidence and safety behaviours of the general public and SMEs, reinforcing the perception of the UK as a safe place to do business, and helping increase online trade and uptake of online services. This strategy will support objectives in the Cyber Crime Strategy, the Organised Crime Strategy and the FFT strategic plan.

From the 22nd-26th October, a [Get Safe Online](#) awareness week is being held, with the intention of getting as many people as possible across the UK to pass on online safety tips to friends, family, colleagues, neighbours or even strangers that may benefit from the advice.

Prevention:

The **National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB)** within the **City of London Police (COLP)**, using the **Action Fraud** central fraud reporting system and other intelligence streams are compiling ongoing alerts for law enforcement agencies, industry partners and members of the public to inform them of emerging crime and intelligence trends. The alerts are disseminated via the most appropriate media in order to reach the correct audience. The NFIB works with industry bodies to ensure that the relevant products are disseminated where appropriate through their established networks using modern technology.

The **Communications Crime Strategy Group (CCSG)** and the **Telecommunications UK Fraud Forum (TUFF)** have established a sub group on the protection of customer data. The purpose of this group is to collect and examine best practice in this area to be able to develop the necessary standards for the protection of personal customer data, and then communicate this to the wider community in the form of codes of practice. The Group will be focusing on security of personal customer data at customer service points both in the UK and where appropriate overseas.

Identity Fraud is one of the UK's fastest growing crimes, affecting individuals and businesses alike. Although most people know about it, research by [Stop ID Fraud](#) shows that consumers and businesses are not aware of, or are not taking the steps they could and should be taking to fully protect themselves. [National Identity Fraud Prevention](#) week was held on the 17th-23rd October, and was a nationwide effort to help in the battle against identity fraud. The Stop ID Fraud website contains support and prevention advice for both individuals and businesses. Additionally, a taskforce has been set up to help people to act, with partners including: **Action Fraud, Cifas, Equifax, Symantec Norton, Get Safe Online and Fellowes**. Partner websites highlight the implications of identity fraud and some useful tips to avoid it.

Enforcement:

The **Ministry of Justice** has set out a programme of reforms to the criminal justice system in England and Wales, which forms part of the Government's much wider programme of reform across crime and justice; this includes development of new and enhanced powers to tackle economic crime. For further information outlining the reforms, please see the [Governments White Paper - 'Swift and Sure Justice: the Government's Plans for Reform'](#).

The Crime and Courts Bill which will establish the **National Crime Agency (NCA)** has been debated and completed its committee stage in the House of Lords. Report stage scrutiny in the House of Lords is expected in November, with debate likely to move to the House of Commons towards the end of 2012, and Royal Assent anticipated in April / May 2013.

The **Economic Crime Coordination Board (ECCB)**, the body charged with establishing the Economic Crime Command (ECC) of the NCA was formed nearly a year ago and good progress has been made since its first meeting. Established ECCB sub groups on prevention, intelligence and operational activities are working together to co-ordinate a multi-agency response to a series of identified threats. Work is also currently taking place to inform the shadow command's prevention, intelligence and enforcement priorities for 2012/13 as it moves into the formal establishment of the NCA. The shadow ECC will be live from October 2012 onwards.

R3; the trade body for insolvency professionals are a new partner supporting the FFT strategy, and will be supporting the Economic Crime Intelligence Group and the Economic Crime Operations Group to make greater use of insolvency practitioner powers and expertise in tackling fraud.

Fighting Fraud Together partners:

Association of British Insurers
Association of Chief Police Officers
Attorney General's Office
British Banking Association

British Chamber of Commerce
British Retail Consortium
Building Societies Association
Cabinet Office
Charity Commission
Charity Finance Directors Group
CIFAS
Citizens Advice Bureau
City of London Police
Communities and Local Government
Council of Mortgage Lenders
Crown Prosecution Service
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
Department for Work and Pensions
Federation of Small Businesses
Fraud Advisory Panel
Financial Fraud Action UK
Fighting Fraud Locally Board
Financial Services Authority
HM Revenue and Customs
HM Treasury
Home Office
Insurance Fraud Bureau
Land Registry
Law Society
Metropolitan Police
Ministry of Justice
National Council for Voluntary Organisations
National Fraud Authority
Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
Serious Fraud Office
Serious Organised Crime Agency
Solicitors Regulation Authority
Telecommunications UK Fraud Forum
The UK Cards Association
Victim Support