

# Economic Crime Areas of Research Interest

## NECC (NCA) & Home Office 2025

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## Foreword

Economic crime poses a significant threat to our national security, and the prosperity of the UK. It covers a broad range of illicit activity including fraud, money laundering, and corruption, which enables and funds other crimes such as child sexual exploitation, drug dealing, human trafficking and modern slavery.

Fraud against individuals accounted for 43% of crime recorded by the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) in the year ending December 2024. Beyond financial harms, victims of fraud are reported to experience a wide range of emotional, health and financial harms, as well as impacts on day-to-day behaviours ([Home Office, 2025a](#); [2025b](#)).

Money laundering fuels other crimes, undermines legitimate growth and our national security. The National Crime Agency (NCA) assesses it is a realistic possibility that over £100 billion is laundered every year through the UK or UK corporate structures using High End Money Laundering methods.

Corruption<sup>1</sup> poses a multifaceted threat. It can stifle economic growth, enable broader criminality, erode democracy and endanger national security.

Underpinning these threats is the increasing use of new technologies that facilitate offending at scale. To truly respond to these threats, it is essential that we remain agile and responsive, utilising expertise and intelligence across the widest system.

This is why the National Economic Crime Centre (NECC) and the Home Office are working to advance the understanding of the threat from economic crime to support effective policy and law enforcement responses to tackling this threat.

It is important that robust research and analysis underpins our strategic direction and decision-making. Within the NECC and the Home Office we work with a wide range of analysts – including economists and social researchers as well as data scientists and statisticians. Our combined expertise and operational knowledge base drive our decision-making; however, we want to further enhance and strengthen this with a more comprehensive, coordinated and dedicated approach to engagement with academic professionals and external partners.

While we have grown our evidence base in recent years, we need to build on this and use the expertise of academia and others to respond to the evolving nature of economic crime. By working together, we seek to make the best use of our capabilities.

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<sup>1</sup> Defined as the abuse of entrusted power for private benefit that usually breaches laws, regulations, standards of integrity and/or standards of professional behaviour.

This will help us to better understand why and how people become victims or perpetrators of economic crime, where we are best placed to take enforcement action against it, and how we can shape UK policy frameworks to prevent it.

The publication of our defined Areas of Research Interest (ARI) reflects this ambition. It focuses on money laundering, fraud and corruption, and is designed to inform academia, research organisations and funding bodies of our priorities, and inform areas where we would welcome more insight from academia. This will enhance the evidence base for policy development and operational enforcement. Ultimately, our actions to tackle these threats will impact many people in the UK and abroad who are affected by criminality, as well as the UK economy as a whole.

With the publication of these ARIs, we are enthused and excited at what we can achieve through engagement and constructive challenge from the research community.

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## Introduction

### Structure and content

The Areas of Research Interest (ARI) summarises the key areas where the National Economic Crime Centre and the Home Office would welcome further research on economic crime over the next 3 years. This report is intended to accompany and provide further context to the ARIs published on the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) website<sup>2</sup>. This document aims to complement those by providing further details of ARIs particularly relevant to economic crime. Economic crime is a broad term, but the specific crime types of focus for these ARIs are money laundering, fraud and corruption.

Ten key thematic research areas provide the structure for the substantive sections of this ARI report. They are:

#### Understanding the threat

- 1) Scale and measuring the threat
- 2) Vulnerabilities
- 3) Offenders
- 4) Harms

#### Our response

- 5) Prevention
- 6) Enforcement
- 7) Evaluation and impact

#### Cross-cutting themes

- 8) Technology
- 9) Research methods
- 10) Horizon scanning

For each theme, we have provided a high-level narrative that frames our research priorities, as well as a set of more detailed research questions.

The purpose of this ARI report is to set out the key evidence gaps on economic crime, to help external research partners and funding bodies when considering research topics in this area. This will help to build on and develop the existing evidence base in this area, and to target policy and resources most effectively.

### ARI development

In October 2024, NECC and the Home Office convened the first Economic Crime Academic Forum, hosted at the Royal United Services Institute.<sup>3</sup> The forum aimed to bridge the gap

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<sup>2</sup> <https://ari.org.uk/>

<sup>3</sup> [Economic Crime Academic Forum Report | Royal United Services Institute](#)

between academic research and policymaking by fostering dialogue and identifying actionable solutions to issues including money laundering, fraud and corruption.

Academic participants came from a range of related disciplines and included both more established and early career academics to bring a variety of perspectives. Government attendees came from multiple government departments and law enforcement.

These ARIs have been developed from the discussions at the Academic Forum, and from engagement with policy and law enforcement leads on the key areas where more evidence would be of most value. The ARIs for money laundering also align with the findings and intelligence gaps identified in the 2025 NRA – particularly on the vulnerabilities and offenders involved in money laundering.

### **Using these ARIs**

NECC and the Home Office will use these ARIs to engage with academics and research professionals from across the economic crime research landscape. The ARIs included do not represent all possible evidence gaps and research questions in relation to economic crime. They instead represent those areas felt to be a priority for further research, and where external research can have the most impact for future policy and operational decision making. In some cases, these vary for different types of economic crime. We hope that external researchers and funding organisations will find the documents useful in helping to set the scene and inform future research direction.

Within this document we have also included a section on communication and collaboration, providing ways to get in touch and enable the conversations required to develop partnerships and collaborative working.

## Areas of Research Interest (ARI) questions

### Understanding the threat

To enhance our policy and law enforcement response to economic crime, we must continue to build a comprehensive and up-to-date understanding of the threat of economic crime. The UK conducts a range of threat and risk assessments to develop its understanding, including the National Strategic Assessment ([NCA, 2025](#)) and the National Risk Assessment of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing 2025 ([Home Office and HM Treasury, 2025](#)).

There are some areas that are better understood; for example the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) indicates crime trends for fraud over the last 8 years in England and Wales, and the Economic Crime Survey ([Home Office, 2023a](#)) covers the scale and nature of fraud and corruption experienced in 7 key business sectors. The forthcoming Economic Crime Survey 2024 will cover the scale and nature of fraud, bribery and corruption, and, for the first time, money laundering across businesses in the UK. It will also cover perceptions, risks and preparedness for these crimes.

Despite this ongoing work, gaps remain in our current collective understanding of the threat of economic crime. We have identified 4 thematic areas below for further research.

There is some overlap between and within the thematic types of economic crime and we would encourage researchers to consider priority research questions across crime types when planning research in their own area of expertise, rather than viewing them in isolation. Comparative research by offending and offence type would offer significant value.

### Scale and measuring the threat

Many economic crimes are by their nature hidden, occur internationally and are typically under-identified and under-reported. It is therefore challenging to accurately measure the scale or prevalence of different types of economic crime. It should be noted that in terms of measuring the scale of fraud, the landscape is more mature compared to other types of economic crime; for example, the CSEW regularly measures the scale and nature of fraud against individuals. The ARIs below focus on particular areas of the scale of the problem and measuring the threat on which further evidence would be helpful and extend our pre-existing evidence base.

#### Money laundering

1. What is the scale of money laundering originating from outside the UK, but impacting on the UK? How can this be quantified? How does this change over time?
2. What is the scale of money laundering in specific sectors (both regulated and non-regulated), and how does it vary across industries?
3. What is the scale of money laundering, broken down into the different methods of transferring value and how they are used (for example, through cash, gold or international value transfers)? How does this change over time?

4. What is the scale of illicit crypto usage in the UK, and what are the best ways to improve the existing understanding of scale?
5. What is the scale of proceeds of crime recoverable by UK law enforcement?

### **Corruption**

1. What is the scale and nature of bribery and corruption in the UK? How do these vary in specific sectors?
2. How can the threat from other types of corruption beyond bribery be more effectively isolated, labelled and quantified?
3. What is the scale and proportion of the wider economic crime and fraud threat which is facilitated by corruption?
4. How can we measure the impact of overseas corruption and international illicit finance within the UK?

### **Fraud**

1. What is the nature, scale and prevalence of different types of fraud being facilitated at least partially overseas?
2. What is the scale of fraud activities enabled by UK and non-UK nationals based in the UK, and targeting victims overseas?
3. What is the current and future nature, scale, prevalence and cost of AI-enabled fraud?
4. How accurately are we measuring fraud enabled by international actors and networks? Are there jurisdictions that are under-represented in our understanding?

### **Vulnerabilities**

A better understanding of the different vulnerabilities would support policy development and operational activity to be focused on the areas that pose the greatest risk. This would be valuable both at a strategic level and when considering activity within different sectors of the economy. The ARIs below focus on the areas where further information would be particularly valuable to build on our existing understanding of the vulnerabilities in the UK. The key question relevant across all crime types here would be what the key vulnerabilities are that can be exploited by criminals engaging in economic crime.

### **Money laundering**

1. What else can we learn about the key vulnerabilities in the UK that enable criminals to hide or obscure assets? What might make the UK be vulnerable compared to other jurisdictions?
2. How does money laundering occur within specific sectors? What are the primary vulnerabilities? For example, within the education, sport, legal, real estate, financial sectors. What socio-economic factors, behaviours and motivations influence this?
3. How might sectors that are not regulated by Anti-Money Laundering (AML) Regulations facilitate money laundering?
4. What are the main methodologies and mechanisms through which cryptocurrencies are used for money laundering?

## **Corruption**

1. To what extent are sector level vulnerabilities to corruption exploited?
2. What is the relationship between organised crime and corruption in the UK?
3. What are the UK sector level vulnerabilities to international illicit finance? Where do overseas corrupt actors, including corrupt elites and kleptocrats, move and store their wealth in the UK?

## **Fraud**

1. How is vulnerability defined across the fraud system?
2. How are definitions of vulnerability deployed operationally across the fraud system?
3. Are there situational and technological vulnerabilities that affect the scale and harms experienced by individuals?
4. Are there situational and technological vulnerabilities for businesses, and how do they affect the scale and harms experienced by businesses?
5. What is the current and future prevalence of identity theft in facilitating/enabling fraud? How much of the UK's personal data is available online in a format that is accessible at scale for use by fraudsters?

## **Offenders**

Understanding the drivers and pathways into criminal activity, as well as the perceptions, motivations and decision-making of criminals is essential to formulating the necessary prevention and enforcement strategies. It is also important to understand how different types of criminality intersect and enable each other as part of understanding the wider criminal ecosystem. This can help to determine how disrupting one form of offending behaviour can impact other forms of criminality. Below sets out the key gaps in our understanding of offender pathways and behaviours.

## **Money laundering**

1. What are the drivers and pathways into money laundering? Does this differ for those involved in a professional capacity?
2. What influences offender decision making around involvement in money laundering and why are some methods chosen over others?
3. Do professional enablers consider themselves to be engaging in unethical or illegal behaviour? What are their motivations for involvement?
4. How do predicate offences influence which money laundering approaches are adopted?
5. What are offenders' perceptions of the UK as a destination to launder funds compared to other jurisdictions? Are these changing over time?
6. How do criminal networks converge (for example, how do threat actors collaborate to move illicit funds)? What opportunity structures enable collaboration? Which enablers feature across the activities of multiple OCGs?
7. Who is involved in criminal networks, where are they located? How is the criminal network organised and structured?
8. What motivates individuals involved in money muling, and who is most at risk for becoming a money mule?

## **Corruption**

1. Do corrupt actors consider themselves to be engaging in illegal behaviour? Does this differ when looking at domestic and international corruption?
2. What are the motivations of corruptors, power holders and professional enablers that engage in or facilitate corrupt activity?
3. What are the pathways for different actors involved in corruption, including corruptors, power holders and professional enablers?

## **Fraud**

1. What are the enabling factors for committing fraud? How will those involved in committing fraud benefit from the adoption of AI?
2. Who are fraud offenders and what are the pathways into fraud? What are the pinch points where intervention would be most effective in tackling fraud?
3. What are the structures and operations of overseas-based fraud networks in newly emerging Jurisdictions of Risks?

## **Harms**

For some economic crime types, such as fraud, the consequences of the crime are far easier seen and felt amongst the public, communities and businesses. The existing evidence base in relation to harms resulting from fraud is therefore also more developed in some areas.<sup>4</sup> For other crime types, harms are not always as clearly defined or robustly evidenced. Being able to begin to quantify and illustrate this harm – for example to individuals, to the economy or society more generally would support our understanding of the impact of economic crime. The following questions are where research would be particularly useful to begin doing this.

## **Money laundering**

1. What is the impact and harm from money laundering (for example, the impact on businesses, and on the general public)? How do the impacts and harms from money laundering affect wider social and economic factors (for example, on house prices)?
2. How does money laundering through cash-intensive businesses on the high street impact legitimate businesses?
3. How can the harms of money laundering within the UK be better understood and communicated to the public? Can they be quantified?
4. What is the impact of money laundering on economic growth in the UK?

## **Corruption**

1. What is the impact of corruption on economic growth in the UK?
2. What are the impacts of overseas corruption and international illicit finance within the UK?
3. Who are the direct and indirect victims of domestic corruption within the UK?
4. How can the harms and costs of corruption within the UK be better understood and quantified?

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<sup>4</sup> For example, see published Home Office reports [Experiences of victims of fraud and cyber crime - GOV.UK](#) and [Understanding the cyber crime and fraud victim journey - GOV.UK](#)

5. How should victims of foreign bribery be defined? What harms, including financial, social, economic or environmental, can they experience in different contexts?
6. How could non-financial harms experienced by victims of foreign bribery be quantified?
7. What is the reputational impact on the UK of corruption and international illicit finance?

### **Fraud**

1. What is the impact of fraud on economic growth in the UK?
2. How have harms changed over time in response to new forms of technology?
3. How do the non-financial harms from fraud differ between fraud types?
4. What are the long-term impacts and harms of fraud on vulnerable people? Are they receiving the support they need post-incident?
5. What is the impact of fraud on UK businesses and consumer confidence?

## **Our response**

### **Prevention**

It is important to understand the most effective strategies for preventing economic crime, to protect the UK and its citizens from the harm caused by economic crime. Comparative research on the effectiveness of different prevention interventions for the different crime types would enable future interventions to be informed by enhanced evidence.

### **Money laundering**

1. What are the most effective preventative measures the AML-regulated sector can implement to disrupt money laundering at its source?
2. How can industry lead the way in promoting best/ethical practice within specific sectors? What approaches are effective?

### **Corruption**

1. To what extent are entrusted power holders, corruptors and/or professional enablers aware of the boundaries of acceptable behaviour?
2. How effective are anti-corruption preventative and protective measures in the private sector (such as gift registers, audits, anomaly detection and transparency measures)?

### **Fraud**

1. What would improve the adoption of behaviours to protect individuals from common fraud types such as investment fraud, phishing, and courier fraud?
2. What is the public's appetite for increased security, when traded off against friction in areas like payments or online life?
3. How can behavioural insights approaches contribute to reducing fraud?
4. What further measures could industry implement to stop fraud reaching individuals or businesses?

## **Enforcement**

It is crucial to understand how to maximise the effectiveness of approaches to disrupting economic crime, ensuring law enforcement activity is best targeted. This could include a range of activities such as: improving identification of criminal activity, best use of prosecutions and convictions, and the recovery of criminal assets. In addition, it is important that we adapt to changes and innovations in technology that might help to inform our response. The following research questions summarise some of the key evidence gaps on enforcement. These questions also link very closely to the following section on evaluation, which focuses on understanding the impact of our interventions.

### **Money laundering**

1. What innovative methods can law enforcement adopt to identify and recover the proceeds of crime?

### **Corruption**

1. What are the incentives, motivations and barriers to reporting corruption?
2. How can barriers to quality reporting of corruption incidents be overcome?
3. How effective are non-criminal reporting routes at identifying corrupt actors?
4. How can understanding the key roles of professional enablers in the corruption space enhance our enforcement and regulatory responses?

### **Fraud**

1. Where and how could enhanced international collaboration improve the law enforcement response to fraud?
2. What does recidivism look like for the fraud offender? How can we ensure penalties are appropriate and act as a deterrent?
3. What kind of disruption would effectively deter criminals from a) targeting the UK or b) entering into fraud?
4. Why is the volume of individuals prosecuted and convicted for fraud offences a small proportion of total prosecutions and convictions?

## **Evaluating and understanding the impact of our interventions**

To effectively respond to and tackle economic crime, it is important to ensure that government policy and law enforcement activity is having the desired impact. Only through reviewing our responses and understanding 'what works' can we seek to adapt and close vulnerabilities and strengthen our response. The Home Office evaluation strategy outlines our more general approach to evaluation of interventions ([Home Office, 2023b](#)). Further research on 'what works' for economic crime could consider how best to assess 'what works' in preventing and disrupting economic crime, particularly given the challenges presented by the hidden nature of the crime types involved. This section also includes some questions that are relevant across all the crime types, as similar questions applying a cross-cutting approach may be of particular value here.

### **Overarching questions relevant across crime types on evaluation**

1. What has been the impact of UK interventions in tackling economic crime? Have these been effective?

2. What interventions are most effective in deterring and disrupting economic crime offenders?
3. What is the evidence of the effectiveness of prevention methods, and 'what works' to disrupt the business models used in criminal markets?
4. How might interventions need to be developed and adapted for international rather than domestic threats?
5. How can we best assess the extent to which new interventions may result in offenders adapting or switching methodologies and the impact this has on the law enforcement response?

### **Money laundering**

1. How can we best understand the impact of our interventions in tackling money laundering? What are the best ways to measure this?
2. How can we best understand how reductions in money laundering contribute to economic growth and competitiveness?
3. How effective are the current regulations in identifying and preventing money laundering (for example, in the regulated sector)?
4. To what extent do the offences under s327-329 of the Proceeds of Crime Act deter individuals from engaging in money laundering? How well are the offences understood by the regulated sector?
5. How effective are AML regulations in ensuring business sectors have the right controls in place to identify and mitigate money laundering risk?
6. How effective is compliance with AML regulations in supporting growth in specific sectors?
7. What is the impact of law enforcement disruption activity on money laundering? How effective are disruptions and does this vary by context?
8. What is the impact of asset recovery on criminals? Does this deter and disrupt offenders? Does it change offender decision-making?
9. What is the impact of financial sanctions and what factors influence their efficacy?

### **Corruption**

1. How effective is anti-corruption guidance and education in preventing corruption?
2. How effective are standards and codes of professional conduct in deterring corrupt behaviours?
3. How do law enforcement activity and disruptions against organised crime affect the extent and nature of corruption?
4. How effective are asset recovery and alternative disruptions against corruption?

### **Fraud**

1. What is the impact of the law enforcement response on fraud and how do we measure the effectiveness of disruptive activities (for example, website take-downs, arrests)?
2. How can we best support victims of fraud to avoid re-victimisation?
3. What is the impact of industry interventions to block fraud (for example tech or financial sectors)?
4. What works in tackling fraud in other countries and to what extent could any of those interventions be transferred to the UK?

5. How do we measure the impact of international collaboration (UK and international partners) on deterring overseas fraud offenders?
6. How can government/law enforcement/civil society effectively measure whether social media platforms and tech companies are adequately safeguarding users against fraud?

## **Cross-cutting themes**

Alongside the more specific categories for further research, there are some cross-cutting themes where the research questions and gaps are relevant across economic crime as a whole. This includes how best to understand and respond to the threat as technology develops quickly. For example, how might this technology development influence the response required. There are also gaps in the best research methods to understand economic crime as a whole; for example, around best identification and utilisation of suitable data sources. Finally, horizon scanning is crucial to maintaining sight of how the threat may evolve and how best to prepare for mitigating that in the future.

## **Technology**

### **Understanding the threat**

1. What are the most significant drivers and motivations for using emerging technology to commit economic crime? What are the barriers?
2. How can emerging technologies facilitate the flows of illicit finance?
3. What capabilities are needed to launder money, and how do emerging technologies influence this?
4. What technical or social vulnerabilities can the use of emerging technologies exploit?
5. What is best practice for identifying and recording uses of AI to facilitate economic crime?
6. How do virtual economies and assets (such as in-game currencies and non-fungible tokens) contribute to financial crime vulnerabilities?
7. What factors might influence the scale of money laundering, corruption and fraud (for example technologies like AI), or economic factors?
8. What are the dynamics of online marketplaces and forums that support or undermine the criminal economic ecosystem?

### **Our response**

1. What do we know about whether and why some people, places (including communities, regions, countries), times or vectors for fraud and other economic crime are more resistant/resilient to attempts/attacks than others?
2. How might financial crime risks in emerging online environments such as the metaverse be best managed?
3. What are the gaps in existing legislation or regulation to manage the threat from the use of emerging technologies to facilitate economic crime?
4. How could emerging technologies, such as AI, help us prevent or protect from future economic crimes?
5. How could emerging technologies, such as AI, help to detect and disrupt economic crime?

## **Research methods**

1. How can we best understand trends in economic crime, particularly focusing on topics including scale, usage of crypto, and sanctions evasion?
2. How can we best identify and utilise data across both the public and private sectors to contribute to understanding of trends?
3. How can we identify new, or develop current, data sources to improve our understanding of economic crime and cyber-crime? How can big data be exploited to map our exposure to economic crime?

## **Horizon scanning**

1. What impact will future social, political, economic, environmental (including climate) and technological changes have for economic crime?
2. Will technological developments lead to any existing countering economic crime capabilities becoming less effective? If so, how can these be pre-empted?
3. What capabilities do we currently rely on and what might we need in the future? How can horizon scanning and futures thinking be used to inform policy decisions?

## Communication and collaboration

This publication summarises the key areas where further academic research would be particularly beneficial. It also provides the basis for wider engagement activities to enable us to discuss our priorities in more detail and to take forward mutually beneficial relationships with the academic community. We will endeavour to work alongside the academic and research community to facilitate this. Further to the 2024 Economic Crime Academic Forum, we are exploring options to better develop more regular, depth engagement with academia and external research partners. Publication of this ARI represents a first step in supporting our engagement activity.

We are very keen to hear from the academic and external research community about any research proposals that align with the themes in this publication and would welcome opportunity to discuss these proposals.

Please contact us to discuss further at:

NECC: [NECC-IF-Research@nca.gov.uk](mailto:NECC-IF-Research@nca.gov.uk)

Home Office: [EconomicCrimeResearch@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:EconomicCrimeResearch@homeoffice.gov.uk)

## Existing economic crime responsibilities

There are a number of existing bodies with responsibilities for Economic Crime. This list is by no means exhaustive but sets out the key responsibilities of some of the main UK organisations.

### Companies House

- Executive agency responsible for incorporating and dissolving limited companies and manages the Register of Overseas Entities.

### Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)

- Principal independent prosecuting authority in England and Wales, responsible for prosecuting criminal cases instituted by law enforcement authorities.

### Department of Business and Trade

- Lead department for policy relating to Company law and corporate transparency (Companies House, PSC Register, ROEB0 Register, Scottish Limited Partnerships)

### Financial Conduct Authority (FCA)

- FCA is the regulator for the financial services industry in the UK. It supervises the conduct of approximately 42,000 financial services firms, ensuring that financial markets operate fairly, consumers are protected and competition and growth are promoted. Under the Money Laundering Regulations, Financial Services and Markets Acts of 2000 and 2023, the FCA has wide-ranging enforcement powers against firms who fail to meet standards.

### Office for Professional Body Anti Money Laundering Supervision (OPBAS)

- OPBAS is an AML/CTF supervisor overseeing 25 professional body supervisors (PBSs) for the legal and accountancy sectors in the UK. Housed within the FCA, OPBAS aims to reduce the harm of money laundering and terrorist financing by ensuring a high standard of supervision by PBSs and facilitating collaboration and intelligence sharing between PBSs, supervisors and law enforcement agencies.

### Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)

- Leads international engagement to tackle illicit finance.

### HM Treasury

- Co – lead Money Laundering Policy alongside the Home Office
- Responsibility for the Money Laundering Regulations, appointment of supervisors, approval of supervisory guidance, Financial Action Taskforce.

## **HMRC**

- Tax and Customs authority of the UK
- As an anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing (AML/CTF) supervisory authority under the Money Laundering Regulations, HMRC oversees compliance for a range of sectors including:
  - Money Service Businesses
  - High Value Dealers
  - Trust or Company Service Providers
  - Accountancy Service Providers
  - Estate Agency Businesses
  - Art Market Participants
  - Letting Agency Businesses
- Beyond supervision, as a law enforcement body, HMRC uses a robust suite of civil and criminal powers to combat fiscal fraud and disrupt the most prevalent methods of money laundering linked to tax evasion. HMRC is also responsible for enforcing trade-related sanctions.

## **Home Office**

- Co-lead Money Laundering Policy alongside HM Treasury
- Drives and coordinates cross-government Anti-Corruption efforts
- Collaborates with FCDO and HMT to develop policy interventions, country action plans and support operational cases to counter the threat of international illicit finance
- Works in partnership with HM Treasury, law enforcement agencies, and regulatory bodies, to shape and implement national economic crime strategies aimed at protecting the integrity of the UK's financial system.
- Responsible for tackling fraud against individuals and businesses.

## **National Crime Agency (NCA)**

- Law enforcement agency in the UK leading the response locally, regionally and nationally to reduce the impact of serious and organised crime on the UK. Economic Crime is a primary threat area for the agency, and within the NCA there are two departments dedicated to it:

### **National Economic Crime Centre (NECC)**

- System lead for the law enforcement response to economic crime with three core objectives; to understand the threat, direct the system and enhance the response. The NECC directorate is housed within the NCA and encompasses the National Economic Crime Centre (NECC), the UK Financial Intelligence Unit (UKFIU) and the Proceeds of Crime Centre (PoCC). Together, these teams work towards a unified goal of reducing and preventing the rapidly growing and increasingly complex threat that economic crime poses to UK security and the economy.

### **UK Financial Intelligence Unit (UKFIU)**

- The UKFIU (housed within the NCA) has national responsibility for receiving, analysing and disseminating intelligence submitted through the Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) regime, to share with law enforcement agencies at home and internationally. It sits at the heart of the regime, providing the gateway to reporters and a repository of data to inform law enforcement.

**The Insolvency Service (INSS)**

- The primary agency enforcing the company and insolvency legal frameworks in the UK and conducting related enforcement work to uphold the integrity of the business environment.

**Serious Fraud Office (SFO)**

- Specialist investigating and prosecuting authority tackling serious and complex fraud, bribery and corruption and associated money laundering.

**UK Policing**

- Policing plays a vital role in tackling economic crime. UK police forces, Regional Organised Crime Units and national teams all play a role in combatting economic crime by investigating offences, protecting victims and implementing 4P strategies to reduce the harm from economic crime.

**City of London Police**

- Take the role of National Lead Force for fraud and have developed the national policing strategy for fraud, economic and cyber-crime 2023-2028.