

Issue 28

# SIA

**SARs IN ACTION  
MAGAZINE**



**UKFIU**  
UK Financial Intelligence Unit

**Celebrating  
International  
Collaboration**

**The Camden Asset Recovery  
Inter-agency Network (CARIN)**

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**The Role of the Egmont Group in  
Combatting Financial Crime**

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**AUSTRAC - How the UK and Australia team up  
to combat financial crime on a global scale**

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A United Kingdom Financial Intelligence Unit  
publication aimed at all stakeholders in the  
Suspicious Activity Reports regime

 **NCA**  
National Crime Agency



# UKFIU

UK Financial Intelligence Unit



# NCA

National Crime Agency

# Message from the head of the UKFIU



## Vince O'Brien Deputy Director

Hello and welcome to the 28<sup>th</sup> issue of the UKFIU's magazine SARs in Action.

In this issue we focus on the Interpol General Assembly themes of Global Leadership, Innovation and Collaboration.

We take a closer look at the the Camden Asset Recovery Inter-agency Network (CARIN) who aid in the tracing, freezing, seizure and confiscation of international assets.

This is followed by Egmont Group and how their network plays a pivotal role in fostering cooperation and enhancing the effectiveness of financial intelligence.

We learn about how NECC Project Winterproof is leading the fight against international fraudsters targeting UK individuals and businesses.

Also included is an article on the collaborative work conducted between The National Economic Crime Centre (NECC) Public Private Partnerships (PPP) Team and the Joint Money Laundering Intelligence Taskforce (JMLIT)+ Public-Private Threat Groups (PPTGs).

And finally, we introduce the work done by AUSTRAC, following the appointment of their new UK Liaison Officer in August this year.

## ➔ Who is the magazine aimed at?

- All law enforcement; this includes senior investigating officers, frontline police officers and police staff
- Reporters
- Regulators
- Supervisors
- Trade bodies
- Government partners
- International partners

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# 92<sup>nd</sup> INTERPOL General Assembly



## GLASGOW 2024 UNITED KINGDOM 92<sup>ND</sup> INTERPOL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The UK is hosting the 92<sup>nd</sup> INTERPOL General Assembly, which will take place from 4–7 November 2024 in Glasgow. The largest global gathering of senior law enforcement officials will bring together some 1,000 participants, including heads of police, ministers, and senior government officials from around the world.

As part of this international event, the UKFIU and National Economic Crime Centre (NECC) Public Private Partnerships (PPP) Team will jointly host a stand at the law enforcement exhibition, which aims to showcase the best of UK policing and law enforcement, with a focus on the three General Assembly themes - Global Leadership, Innovation and Collaboration.

The UKFIU will provide an insight into how we work with reporters and law enforcement agencies within the UK and internationally through Egmont, providing high level financial intelligence to help combat money laundering and economic crime.

The NECC will showcase their system leadership and delivery of operational and strategic results through a range of capabilities, including the world-leading Data Fusion pilot.

**NOTE: The exhibition is not open to the public**

### Background

INTERPOL's role is to enable police in its 196 member countries to work together to fight transnational crime and make the world a safer place. It maintains global databases containing police information on criminals and crime, and provides operational and forensic support, analysis services and training. These policing capabilities are delivered worldwide and support four global programmes: financial crime and corruption; counter-terrorism; cybercrime; and organised and emerging crime.



# INTERPOL

# THE CAMDEN ASSET RECOVERY INTER-AGENCY NETWORK (CARIN)

**Gurpreet Chandi**  
**Operations Manager, UKFIU International**



The Camden Asset Recovery Inter-agency Network (CARIN) is an informal network of international law enforcement and judicial practitioners working in the field of asset tracing, freezing, seizure and confiscation. The name originates from the Camden Court Hotel in Dublin, the location of a conference where attendees set out recommendations on how to deal with asset tracing and seizure, identifying as best practice the set-up of this informal network.

There are 61 jurisdictions registered as members of CARIN, with representatives assisting each other with the identification and ultimately, the confiscation of assets associated to criminals or obtained via criminal means. Together with the other seven regional networks (South America, Caribbean, West Africa, East Africa, South Africa, West and Central Asia, Asia-Pacific), representatives can reach over 175 jurisdictions.

The CARIN Secretariat is based permanently at Europol Headquarters and perform a key function, providing support, knowledge and experience and facilitating contact between members, observers and other regional Asset Recovery Inter-agency Networks.

In September 2024, UK CARIN representatives attended the CARIN Steering Group Meeting in Paris. The CARIN Steering Group consists of nine member jurisdictions; Belgium, France, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Spain, Latvia, UK and the USA, who perform an important role overseeing the administration of the network. Each member holds the Presidency for one year.

Representatives discussed matters surrounding best practice, the upcoming CARIN Annual General Meeting in Paris in November 2024, and the handover of the CARIN Presidency to the UK from January 2025.



You can request CARIN assistance if you are a law enforcement officer (police/customs/other law enforcement agency) a prosecutor, magistrate or judge, or an official from an Asset Recovery Office or Asset Management Office.

# STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION: The Role of the Egmont Group in Combatting Financial Crime



In an increasingly interconnected world, the fight against money laundering, associated predicate crime and terrorist financing requires robust international cooperation. The Egmont Group, with its network of 177 Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) worldwide, plays a pivotal role in fostering this cooperation and enhancing the effectiveness of financial intelligence.

## The Role of the Egmont Group

The Egmont Group stands out due to its secure information exchange platform which enables efficient communication and collaboration among member FIUs. The platform facilitates the daily exchange of financial information, knowledge sharing and supports tens of thousands of operational cases each year.

In 2023, Egmont member FIUs received over 600 million reports within their respective jurisdictions. By tapping into the Egmont Group's vast global network, this wealth of information strengthens the analytical capabilities of all member FIUs. Additionally, more than 24,000 international information exchanges were conducted by Egmont member FIUs prior to judicial proceedings. This reflects our members' commitment to providing the best intelligence in support of law enforcement agencies' needs.

## Collaborative Efforts and Success Stories

One of the key strengths of the Egmont Group is its ability to bring together FIUs and international partners from around the world to incorporate common approaches based on their mission and strategic priorities. For instance, the recent joint report on Illicit Finance from Cyber-Enabled Fraud (CEF), produced in collaboration with strategic partners such as the Financial Action Task Force and INTERPOL, showcases the power of collaboration in addressing transnational organised crime. The report highlights the importance of private and public sector coordination and the need for continuous innovation to stay ahead of emerging threats.



## Training and Capacity Building

The Egmont Group also places a strong emphasis on training and capacity building. Through initiatives like the Egmont Centre of FIU Excellence and Leadership (ECOFEL), and its working and regional groups, the Egmont Group provides expert training and resources to FIUs worldwide. This support helps FIUs enhance their capabilities and stay updated on the latest best practices and standards in the anti-money laundering/combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) field.

## Secondment Program

In addition to its training and capacity-building efforts, the Egmont Group operates a secondment programme that allows officers from FIUs to work directly at the Egmont Group. Notably, the UKFIU has provided a Senior Officer for a multi-year term which benefits both the organisations involved. It provides them with invaluable global networking opportunities, hands-on experience working with different jurisdictions and exposure to diverse environments. Officers have the opportunity to enhance their skills, build professional relationships and contribute to the joint AML/CFT efforts by participating in multilateral initiatives.



## Looking Ahead

As we look to the future, international cooperation in combating money laundering, associated predicate crime and terrorist financing is more critical than ever. The Egmont Group is dedicated to strengthening global partnerships, enhancing knowledge sharing, and supporting FIUs in their mission to safeguard the financial system from illicit activities. By working together, we can turn threats into opportunities and build a more secure and resilient financial system for the future. For that reason, FIUs are committed to remain agile to the always-changing money laundering/terrorist financing risk environment and implement diverse methods and approaches to tackle financial crime.

For more information and resources on the Egmont Group, we invite you to visit:

[www.egmontgroup.org](http://www.egmontgroup.org)

# 24<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL EGMONT WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

Delegates from the UK Financial Intelligence Unit (UKFIU) attended the **24th Annual Egmont Working and Regional Group Meetings** in Malta between 29 January and 2 February 2024.

EGMONT  
WORKING & REGIONAL  
GROUP MEETINGS  
29 JANUARY - 2 FEBRUARY 2024  
MALTA



The UK is a founding member of the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units (Egmont Group), established in 1995. The Egmont Group works to enhance member capabilities and to improve secure information sharing, training, and best practice internationally. The UKFIU's International Team plays a vital role in sharing intelligence on illicit finance and the funding of terrorism effectively with international partners. The team also receives a high volume of enquiries from overseas jurisdictions wanting to identify or trace assets held in the UK.

The working and regional group meetings offer a platform for the UKFIU to strengthen working relationships, collaborate further and share expertise to work towards combatting money laundering and terrorist financing internationally.



With over 500 representatives of Egmont FIUs, international partners and observers attending the meetings, the visit to Malta presented an invaluable opportunity to meet with counterparts from across the world and to build relationships critical to operational success.

Head of the Ukrainian FIU, Igor Gaievskiy and Head of the UKFIU, Vince O'Brien

UKFIU delegates attended a number of meetings throughout the week to discuss priority issues, ranging from effective global criminal asset denial and Egmont strategy and operational policy, to endorsing new FIU candidate members to the Egmont Group, highlighting the value of public-private partnerships.

During the week, the UKFIU delegation shared insights gained from the UK's public-private partnership initiative with colleagues from neighbouring FIUs. This contributed to the current regional plan, part of which focuses on sharing good practice in this area.

**Deputy Director Vince O'Brien attended a meeting with other heads of participating FIUs to discuss future technology developments for the Egmont Group to enhance and facilitate information sharing. This discussion is central to ensuring the capability of all member FIUs to securely share operational information.**



Appointments to several leadership positions within the Egmont Group were made during the week, with Vince O'Brien appointed as Vice Chair of the Membership, Support and Compliance Working Group, and Malcolm Duckett, SARs Programme Delivery Lead, appointed to the Egmont Secure Web Board. This commitment at a senior level underlines the importance that the UKFIU places on supporting the work of the Egmont Group.

**“The Egmont Group is fundamental to our work. It provides the ground rules and the infrastructure for international data exchange, offers training and professional development for FIU staff and co-ordinates joint research projects between national units which explore trends in economic crime.”**  
**Oliver, UKFIU International Team**

# PROJECT WINTERPROOF

**Matt Perfect**

**Manager, Project WINTERPROOF, NECC**

The National Economic Crime Centre (NECC) has established Project WINTERPROOF to lead the fight against fraudsters with an overseas nexus who are targeting individuals and businesses in the UK. Fraud emanating from international jurisdictions represents a growing threat to UK victims, with the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau assessing that 77% of all fraud targeting UK individuals and businesses is either being instigated or facilitated from overseas. Project WINTERPROOF specifically focuses on the priority jurisdictions that increase the threat to the UK, either by hosting suspects, providing illicit services or offering infrastructure that facilitates fraudulent activities.

The logo for the National Economic Crime Centre (NECC) is displayed in large, bold, dark blue letters. The letters are set against a background of a person's hands holding a laptop, with a glowing padlock icon and a network of dots and lines overlaid on the right side. A horizontal line is positioned below the letters.

**NECC**

**NATIONAL ECONOMIC CRIME CENTRE**

Project WINTERPROOF aims to increase the UK's understanding of the international fraud picture by identifying which jurisdictions pose the greatest risk and assessing how the organised crime groups operating in those countries are structured. Driving this improved understanding is providing the National Crime Agency (NCA) with new opportunities for targeting those causing the greatest harm to UK victims.





Combatting the fraud threat from organised crime groups (OCGs) operating internationally requires the NECC to coordinate effective partnership working between the NCA's network of officers based overseas alongside law enforcement and government agencies in identified jurisdictions of risk. This international collaboration is supported by the NECC's public and private sector partners, in order to maximise intelligence and data sharing with a view to disrupting criminal groups engaged in high-harm frauds such as romance fraud, investment fraud and payment diversion fraud.

Under Project WINTERPROOF, the NECC continues to lead law enforcement efforts to mitigate the threat of high-harm fraud targeting the UK from overseas. Pursuing OCGs involved and raising public awareness of the cross-jurisdictional risks of becoming a victim of fraud are key objectives for the project.



# THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC CRIME CENTRE (NECC) PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS (PPP) TEAM

**Sarah Wood**

**Manager, Public Private Partnerships, NECC**

# NECC

## NATIONAL ECONOMIC CRIME CENTRE

The Joint Money Laundering Intelligence Taskforce (JMLIT)+ Public-Private Threat Groups (PPTGs) are strategic threat groups focused on illicit finance, fraud, tax crime and evasion, and terrorist financing threats. Through the PPTGs and time-limited cells,<sup>1</sup> over 88 JMLIT Alert products have been developed by, and shared with the private sector and wider community to mitigate the criminal methodologies used to exploit the UK's financial system.



**Tackling financial crime together**

The Public Private Cryptoasset Forum has been developed as a new threat group within JMLIT+, with the intention of building links with the UK registered and regulated Cryptoasset industry, identifying opportunities for partnership and bringing members of the industry further into partnership work. PPP international activity is overseen by the International Working Group and facilitated through active engagement in multi-lateral PPP forums and bilateral relationships, including supporting PPP capability building.

<sup>1</sup>Time-limited cells are working groups set up for a specific purpose over a fixed period of time.





The JMLIT Operations Groups acts as a link between law enforcement and the private sector, to collaboratively exchange intelligence and information relating to financial accounts, assets, transactions, and subject information not previously identified in relation to a wide range of serious and organised economic crime threats. To date, the JMLIT Operations Group has supported over 1,110 Crime and Court Act 2013, Section 7 Requests for Information, leading directly to the identification of over 9,455 accounts previously unknown to case teams, the closure of over 6,940 accounts by partners, over 330 arrests and over £177 million being placed under restraint.



The NECC Data Fusion pilot is a large-scale data sharing initiative which has been conducted in partnership with the banking sector and other public sector stakeholders. The objective has been to test the value of speeding up and scaling up the sharing of financial intelligence to disrupt organised crime groups in the UK and better protect the integrity of the UK financial system. The initiative has enabled the lawful sharing of large-scale data from the banking sector to the NECC, and the delivery of over 100 intelligence products across UK law enforcement teams to support the disruption of organised crime group activity.



# UK AND AUSTRALIA TEAM UP TO COMBAT FINANCIAL CRIME ON A GLOBAL SCALE

## UK-Australia Collaboration

Australia and the United Kingdom have a long history of co-operation to counter illicit financing and related threats. Since 2018, a Liaison Officer (LO) from AUSTRAC has been based at the Australian High Commission in London.

The LO role was established to build and enhance partnerships across the Australian and UK law enforcement, regulatory and intelligence communities on financial intelligence, serious and organised crime, anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing (AML/CTF) regulation, and national security matters, including money laundering, terrorism and proliferation financing, foreign interference, cyber and other serious threats. AUSTRAC also works with UK partners in North America, Asia, and the Pacific through a network of LO's based in China, Fiji, Malaysia, and the USA.

AUSTRAC is Australia's Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) and AML/CTF regulator. We work in partnership with governments and agencies around the world to combat money laundering, terrorism financing and other serious crimes.



**Australian Government**

**AUSTRAC**

## AUSTRAC Engagement with the UKFIU



The LO works closely with the UKFIU and other UK partners including the Financial Conduct Authority and His Majesty's Revenue and Customs. As a result of the close relationship between AUSTRAC and the UKFIU, the LO has direct access to the UKFIU office and regularly spends time meeting and working with teams on priority matters for Australia and the UK. This work includes supporting operational leads, developing and sharing FIU and AML/CTF regulatory best practice and developing new relationships to better understand new and emerging threats, trends and methodologies.



Alongside the UKFIU and National Economic Crime Centre (NECC), AUSTRAC is also an active participant in a number of international initiatives, including:


- International Financial Action Strike Team (IFAST)
- The Joint Chiefs of Global Tax Enforcement (J5)
- The Fintel Alliance-led Five Eyes public-private partnership round table
- Europol Financial Intelligence Public Private Partnership (EFIPPP)




A new AUSTRAC LO arrived in London in August 2024 and will look to expand engagement with the UKFIU, NECC and other intelligence and regulatory partners over the coming years to identify opportunities for greater operational collaboration and sharing of best practice in order to:

- direct AUSTRAC's efforts to areas of highest risk and harm
- successfully implement the Australian Government's AML/CTF reforms and embed new sectors into the Australian AML/CTF regime to a global standard
- transform AUSTRAC into a world-leading data-driven digital agency in financial regulation and intelligence
- support UK strategic objectives targeting economic crime and illicit financing





**A subject opened an account and deposited funds from multiple international locations, before quickly transferring these to international accounts. The reporter submitted a DAML SAR to return the funds to the subject and exit their relationship due to suspicion the subject was committing money laundering offences. The UKFIU forwarded the intelligence to the relevant law enforcement agency (LEA) who successfully obtained an account freezing order for over £25,000.**



**An LEA conducting a confiscation investigation into their case of the suspected bribery and corruption of foreign government officials found a SAR containing the names of subjects linked to a series of bribery and corruption offences on the SARs database. The SAR detailed the funds suspected to have been received as a result of the bribes. The UKFIU shared intelligence (including details of assets held overseas) from an international counterpart to assist the LEA in developing financial profiles for the subjects and inform decisions related to the investigation. This resulted in multiple subjects being charged with bribery and corruption offences.**

# NEW TERRORIST FINANCING GLOSSARY CODES

Reporter Engagement Team (RET)  
UK Financial Intelligence Unit



The UKFIU has added four new terrorist financing glossary codes to the SAR Portal.

Code	Glossary Code Description	
<b>Terrorist Financing (NEW)</b>		
<b>XXISLTXX</b>	Islamist Terrorism	The threat or use of violence as a means to establish a strict interpretation of an Islamic society.
<b>XXERWTXX</b>	Extreme Right-Wing Terrorism	Those involved in Extreme Right-Wing activity who use violence in furtherance of their ideology.
<b>XXNIRTXX</b>	Northern Ireland Related Terrorism	Attempts to destabilise the political settlement in Northern Ireland through acts of terrorism and paramilitarism.
<b>XXLASTXX</b>	Left-Wing, Anarchist or Single-Issue Terrorism	Left-Wing, Anarchist and Single-Issue Terrorism encompasses a wide range of ideologies. It includes those from the extreme political left-wing as well as anarchists who seek to use violence to advance their cause in seeking to overthrow the State in all its forms.

**Please select all of the glossary codes relevant to your SAR from the list provided on the SAR Portal. You can use multiple codes on each SAR.**

The SAR Portal glossary codes list will be updated from time to time, as new codes are added and others become obsolete. Please check the complete list each time you submit a SAR to ensure you have selected all relevant glossary codes.<sup>1</sup>

Reporters using the SAR Portal should not be manually typing glossary codes into their SARs.<sup>2</sup> If you have a query about a glossary code that is no longer appearing in the list, please contact [UKFIUEngagement@nca.gov.uk](mailto:UKFIUEngagement@nca.gov.uk) for more information.

In addition to the Terrorist Financing codes above, the glossary codes currently active on the Portal are set out in the following table. Further guidance on when to apply each code to your SAR is also available on the SAR Portal.

<sup>1</sup> Reporters submitting SARs via the bulk API will receive separate guidance on how to add new glossary codes.

<sup>2</sup> In some circumstances, reporters may be asked to manually type a specific code into the reason for suspicion. This is generally only for time-limited codes or codes relevant to a limited group of reporters. If you are unsure whether you should be doing this, please contact [UKFIUEngagement@nca.gov.uk](mailto:UKFIUEngagement@nca.gov.uk).

# SAR Glossary Codes (as of July 2024)

<b>Vulnerable people</b>	
<b>XXV2XX</b>	Risk to vulnerable adults
<b>XXV3XX</b>	Risk to children
<b>XXOICXX</b>	Organised immigration crime
<b>XXMSHTXX</b>	Modern slavery and human trafficking
<b>XXVICTXX</b>	Returning money to a victim of crime
<b>High risk individuals</b>	
<b>XXD9XX</b>	Bribery and corruption
<b>XXPRFXX</b>	Professional enablers
<b>High risk predicate offences</b>	
<b>XXDRUXX</b>	Illegal supply of drugs
<b>XXFIREXX</b>	Firearms
<b>Money laundering typology</b>	
<b>XXTBMLXX</b>	Trade-based money laundering
<b>XXPROPXX</b>	Purchase and rental of real estate property
<b>XXMLTMXX</b>	Money laundering through markets
<b>XXILTXX</b>	Illegal lotteries
<b>XXVAXX</b>	Virtual assets

<b>Economic predicate offences</b>	
<b>XXTEOSXX</b>	Tax evasion offshore
<b>XXTEUKXX</b>	Tax evasion UK-based
<b>XXF1XX</b>	Proceeds from benefit fraud
<b>XXF2XX</b>	Excise evasion (duty on alcohol, tobacco, fuel etc.)
<b>XXF3XX</b>	Corporate tax evasion (tax evasion by businesses, corporations)
<b>XXF4XX</b>	Personal tax evasion (tax evasion by individuals e.g. income tax)
<b>XXF5XX</b>	VAT fraud
<b>XXF9XX</b>	Frauds against the private sector
<b>National interests</b>	
<b>XXSNEXX</b>	Money laundering linked to sanctioned entities
<b>XXPCPXX</b>	Illegal proliferation of chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear weapons, associated technology or their means of delivery
<b>XXCVDXX</b>	Suspicious activity connected to COVID-19
<b>XXSATXX</b>	Fraudulent use of the HMRC Self-Assessment Tax Refunds system

# SIA

## SARs IN ACTION

You can download previous copies of the SARs IN ACTION magazine from the National Crime Agency's website [www.nca.gov.uk](http://www.nca.gov.uk)



# UKFIU

UK Financial Intelligence Unit



# Episode 19

**AVAILABLE HERE**

## THE UKFIU PODCAST

Educational podcast series discussing areas of interest related to the SARs regime and economic crime.



Our podcasts can be found on Spotify, Audible, Amazon Music and most streaming sites.



Updates can also be found on our LinkedIn page and on X (formerly Twitter) at [NCA\\_UKFIU](https://twitter.com/NCA_UKFIU).

