

Criminals to face fresh crackdown in fight against dirty money

- government, law enforcement and business agree joint plan to work closer together to tackle fraud, money laundering, bribery and corruption
- £6.5 million from major financial institutions to reform the Suspicious Activity Reporting regime
- action on cryptoassets to ensure these are not being used for money laundering and other illicit activity
- Asset Recovery Action Plan will help claw back the proceeds of crime, with £1.6 billion taken from criminals between 2010 and 2018

Criminals will have nowhere left to hide their ill-gotten gains thanks to a joint crackdown by government and businesses, ministers will announce.

Today sees the publication of the new [Economic Crime Plan](#), agreed between the Chancellor Philip Hammond, Home Secretary Sajid Javid, and heads of law enforcement, major financial institutions and legal, accountancy and property organisations.

The plan sets out actions to better tackle the scourge of 'dirty money' in the UK. It brings together the public and private sectors in closer cooperation than ever before, with improved levels of information sharing, resource pooling and technological innovation. This will help tackle economic crime both at home and overseas, while maintaining the UK's place as one of the safest and most transparent places to do business.

The plan draws together actions to overhaul the approach to tackling economic crime, including:

- a boost to law enforcement capability, with £48 million of previously announced funding to continue to build the National Economic Crime Centre and help the National Crime Agency to better utilise data to proactively target fraudsters and those laundering dirty money
- reform of the Suspicious Activity Reporting regime, with Barclays, HSBC UK, Lloyds Banking Group, Nationwide, RBS and Santander UK investing £6.5 million in 2019/20, in addition to the £3.5 million committed by the Home Office this year. All parties will work together on longer term funding for developing richer intelligence and improving operational effectiveness in the fight against dirty money.
- establishing a new cryptoassets regime with the Financial Conduct Authority, going beyond international standards to create one of the

most comprehensive global responses to the use of cryptoassets in illicit activity

- promoting innovation in the private sector and encouraging businesses to take advantage of pioneering technologies to combat economic crime, as well as reduce their compliance costs
- Implementing the new Asset Recovery Action Plan, setting out a range of measures designed to enhance efforts to claw back the proceeds of crime, including those held abroad.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond, said:

The UK has one of the toughest systems for combatting money laundering, but too many people are still falling victim to fraud.

This crime fuels everything from drug dealing to modern slavery, fundamentally undermining people's faith in our financial system and impacting economic growth.

By bringing together leaders from across government, law enforcement and business, we can better tackle the scourge of dirty money, and ensure the UK continues to be one of the safest places in the world to invest and do business.

The Home Secretary, Sajid Javid, said:

Economic crime in all its guises threatens our security and prosperity and leaves a trail of victims in its wake.

We've made progress in the fight to stop criminals profiting from their offending – but we must go further.

Our new plan represents a step-change in our response, bringing together the public and private sectors to relentlessly pursue the perpetrators and their dirty money.

Chairman of UK Finance, Bob Wigley, said:

Tackling economic crime in partnership with government and law enforcement is a top priority for the finance and banking sector. This plan provides a vital blueprint for how the public and private sector will work together to crack down on the criminals responsible and make this country the cleanest and most transparent for financial business in the world.

Access to high quality intelligence on the latest threats is essential in stopping economic crime. That is why a key part of this plan is about reforming and improving the current Suspicious Activity Reporting regime. To support this work the industry has committed to providing £6.5 million in funding for this project and UK Finance is hosting a team of industry and Home Office experts to help deliver this work.

Director General of the National Economic Crime Centre, Graeme Biggar, said:

We have had some brilliant results working with the private sector. Harnessing the intelligence and capabilities across the public and private sectors is going to make a real difference to our ability to tackle economic crime.

Having a detailed, up to date joint understanding of the threat helps ensure we focus our response where it will have the biggest impact. Our joint work has highlighted the scale and sophistication of the challenge, the extent to which fraud is now cyber enabled, the key role that corrupt or complicit lawyers and accountants and complex corporate structures can play in money laundering, and the importance of tackling money mules.

We will work closely with our partners in law enforcement, as well as with the private sector, civil society and the public, to bring those committing economic crime to justice.

The UK has been recognised as a world-leader in combatting economic crime, yet the activity still poses a significant threat to the country's security and prosperity, with the financial sector a major target for criminals. Serious and organised crime is estimated to cost the UK at least £37 billion each year.

While numerous government agencies work to combat illicit financial activity, major financial institutions, lawyers and accountants are often the first line of defence, collecting significant information which can be vital to preventing this activity from occurring in the first place.

One in fifteen members of the public are now believed to be falling victim to fraud, with gang violence and drug trafficking regularly financed through this.

Alongside the Economic Crime Plan, the Government is publishing a new Asset Recovery Action Plan.

It highlights how more assets have been recovered under this government than ever before, with £1.6 billion taken from criminals between April 2010 and March 2018 using the powers in the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA). Many hundreds of millions more have been frozen.

The recovery of assets also helps contribute to ongoing efforts to tackle crime, including work to follow the money as an effective way of disrupting serious crime and depriving more offenders of the proceeds of their offending.

But the government is determined to go further and ensure criminals have nowhere to hide their illicit finances. The plan sets out measures designed to ensure the relevant agencies have the powers they need; strengthen our operational response; drive best practice; and foster innovation and collaborative working.

These plans build on other ongoing work to combat economic crime. This includes encouraging transparency around the ownership of assets, with recent proposals to reform Companies House so that ownership and control of companies is clearer.

Notes to editors

- The Economic Crime Plan and Asset Recovery Action Plan will be published on Friday 12 July
- Economic crime covers a broad range of illicit activity involving money, finance or assets which causes serious harm to the public. Economic crimes like fraud, corruption and money laundering enable and fund other crimes which cause lasting harm – such as child sexual exploitation, drug dealing, human trafficking and modern slavery.
- This Economic Crime Plan was commissioned by the Economic Crime Strategic Board and developed through its main working groups: the Economic Crime Delivery Board and the Private Sector Steering Group
- The Economic Crime Strategic Board was held on Wednesday 10 July. This included attendees from the Financial Conduct Authority; National Economic Crime Centre; Bank of England; Santander UK; Lloyds Banking Group; Attorney General; City of London Police; RBS; Standard Chartered; Nationwide; NAEA Propertymark; Crown Prosecution Service; Home Office; BDO LLP; Serious Fraud Office; Barclays; Anti-Corruption Champion; Solicitors Regulation Authority; HM Treasury; HSBC UK; Law Society; BEIS; ICAEW; UK Finance; Morgan Stanley; and HMRC.

Please see [the Economic Crime Plan](#).

Commonwealth: UK celebrates 70th anniversary

Lord Ahmad said:

Seventy years ago, the Commonwealth of Nations had eight members. These countries were united in their desire to work together in pursuit of peace, freedom and progress. Since then, the Commonwealth's membership has grown to 53 countries, encompassing nearly a third of the world's population.

To celebrate the Commonwealth's 70th anniversary, I am delighted that all 53 member states agreed an affirmation of the Commonwealth, reaffirming their commitment to the core values and principles of the Commonwealth Charter, celebrating the successes of the last seven decades, and looking forward to ambitious achievements in the future.

As well as celebrating the Commonwealth's 70th anniversary, at the 19th meeting of Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers at Marlborough House on 10 July, we reviewed progress made since last year's Heads of Government Meeting in London, made progress towards governance reform, and looked ahead to next year's meeting in Rwanda.

The Commonwealth plays a unique role in the world, and we will continue to work within it towards a more secure, prosperous, fair and sustainable future.

Plans announced for 1,300 new homes in Ripon

- Homes England to work in partnership with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation to develop plans for housing and commercial space on Claro and Deverell Barracks in Ripon
- Plans are due to be submitted to the council later this year.

- Events will be held for the public to view and feedback on the plans this summer.

This is the first site to be progressed as part of a partnership between Homes England and the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) to develop surplus MoD land across the country.

The Ripon site will provide up to 1,300 new homes and commercial space over the next few years as the land becomes available.

Following an initial event with stakeholders including Ripon City Council and Harrogate Borough Council to discuss a vision for the future of the site, Homes England is now planning a series of community engagement events later this summer.

Marie Kiddell, Head of Public Sector Land at Homes England said:

“We are working hard to define our masterplan for Ripon Barracks and are keen to work with the community to ensure we are addressing the needs of the local area. Following the community engagement events, we will be working with DIO towards submission of a planning application later this year.”

Catherine Davies, DIO Head of Estates, said:

“The MOD has an ongoing commitment to invest in a more fit for purpose Defence estate that will better support the Armed Forces’ future needs, this brings an exciting opportunity to deliver benefits to the local community on the Ripon Barracks site once it becomes surplus.

“DIO is pleased to be working with Homes England on this project to develop a range of quality homes and supporting infrastructure on these sites to contribute to the needs of the local area.”

Housing Minister Kit Malthouse MP said:

“We have an urgent mission to build more, better, faster so the next generation can realise the dream of having a home to call their own.

“We’re pulling every lever to deliver homes where they’re needed across the country, including transforming the site of the old Ripon barracks into more than 1,000 new homes for the people of North Yorkshire.”

Trevor Watson, Director of Economy and Culture at Harrogate Borough Council said:

“As part of our Local Plan consultation and examination, we know both high-quality and affordable homes are required in the Ripon area. So, it’s encouraging to see the start of this project, between the different stakeholders, start to take shape.

“This development will be about much more than just houses though. It’s about creating job opportunities, provide the necessary infrastructure, and most importantly, communities that can thrive in the future. I look forward to

Harrogate Borough Council working with Homes England and the Defence Infrastructure Organisation to explore how we can accelerate the delivery of much needed homes in the Ripon area.”

North Yorkshire County Councillor Andrew Lee, Executive Member for Open to Business, said:

“It’s our ambition to continue to develop North Yorkshire’s reputation as a place with a strong economy and a commitment to sustainable growth, so we’re happy to see this project beginning to take shape. It meshes very well with that ambition.

“This development will help to provide the much-needed homes that are a vital part of our growth plans for the county. We need homes that are attractive to the workforce that supports our world-class manufacturing and service industries, homes in which families can thrive and become a part of North Yorkshire’s strong, independent communities.”

ENDS

Photo caption left to right:

James Ryley Principal Estate Surveyor from the Defence Infrastructure Organisation, Marie Kiddell, Head of Public Sector Land at Homes England and Trevor Watson, Harrogate Borough Council’s Director for Economy and Culture.

[The UK is committed to support Pakistan’s plan to manage population growth](#)

The UK, through its Department for International Development, leads the UK’s global efforts to control population growth rate, extreme poverty and malnutrition. Through its Delivering Accelerated Family Planning Programme, DFID is making family planning information and services accessible to those in need in Pakistan.

Since 2012, the UK support has reached over 1.7 million new family planning users and prevented 4,900 maternal deaths, over 3.49 million unwanted pregnancies, and 490,000 abortions. By March 2022, our programme aims to achieve 550,000 modern contraception users.

Speaking at the event, Deputy Head of DFID Pakistan Kemi Williams said:

Rapid population growth is a major challenge for many countries across the world, including Pakistan and the situation is likely to

get worse if urgent action is not taken. The UK is committed to support Pakistan's plans to manage its population growth.

DFID Pakistan, through its Delivering Accelerated Family Planning programme is making family planning services accessible to men and women across the country.

I believe that every woman should have access to family planning services so that she is empowered to plan her life, be healthy, have healthy children and contribute to the economic growth of Pakistan.

Dr. Zafar Mirza, Federal Minister of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, said:

Population is a great asset, but at the same time if we don't utilize its potential properly, it can become a liability.

Sharing her remarks, Ms. Lina Mousa, UNFPA Representative said:

Pakistan has some of the greatest demographic opportunities for development in the world as a growing youth population enters adulthood. The demographic dividend can only be achieved with adequate investments in the education and skills of youth, harvesting the fruits of long-term human capital development.

To open the window of opportunity for the demographic dividend, Pakistan needs to reduce fertility and invest in the growing youth "bulge" entering the labour force.

The event was attended by high ranking officials of the government, UNFPA, representatives of the United Nations and other national and international organisations. Members of civil society and representatives from media organisations were also in attendance.

For more information

For updates on the British High Commission and the Chevening Programme, please follow our social media channels:

Contact
British High Commission
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National mental health programme between schools and NHS

Pupils struggling with mental health are to benefit from more joined up care and support across schools, colleges and specialist NHS services, in a national roll out of a £9.3 million training scheme.

Every school, college and alternative provision will be offered training through a series of workshops as part of the Link Programme, with the most appropriate member of staff from each put forward to take part alongside mental health specialists. This is designed to improve partnerships with professional NHS mental health services, raise awareness of mental health concerns and improve referrals to specialist help when needed.

The four-year scheme will be led by the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families, backed by the multi-million-pound government investment. It builds on 1,500 schools and colleges that have already taken up this training during the pilot stage of the programme, launched in 2015.

Starting in September, the training will be rolled out to schools and colleges in phases over four years, being offered to up to 22,000 schools and colleges, including alternative provision settings.

The Link Programme will deliver just under 1,000 training sessions across England involving two whole-day workshops for up to 20 schools at a time to cover all 22,000 schools, encouraging collaborative work so children do not fall between the cracks or experience poor transition between services.

One in nine young people aged 5 to 15 had a diagnosable mental health condition in 2017 and teenagers with a mental health disorder are more than twice as likely to have a mental disorder in adulthood. This package of measures is part of the Government's plan to improve mental health support for children and young people, including identifying mental health issues before they become more acute.

Education Secretary Damian Hinds said:

School and college should be a place where young people feel valued, supported and listened to – and I know that this is the case for so many thanks to the dedication of their teachers and support staff. But there are limits to what can be asked or expected of teachers – they are not, and should not, be mental health professionals.

That's why this new training is important, by bringing school and college staff into the same room as NHS professionals and

encouraging them to work together, sharing their expertise and making sure they have the information they need so that more pupils get the right help at the right time.

This builds on the significant measures we've already put in place to improve children's wellbeing, including our new mandatory health education curriculum and the mental health first aid training being offered to schools and colleges.

Training will be prioritised in areas where schools and colleges are already attached to Mental Health Support Teams, following the Government's announcement last December that these teams would be created in 25 'trailblazer' areas.

The Government also confirmed today that 124 new Mental Health Support Teams will be created in 48 areas across the country. Each designated team will support around 20 schools and colleges in their area, helping speed up access to specialist services and building on support already in place from school counsellors, nurses, educational psychologists and the voluntary sector, so that more children and young people get the help and support they need, when they need it.

This forms part of the Government's ambitious plans to transform children and young people's mental health through the NHS Long Term Plan.

Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock said:

We want to give our children and young people the best possible start in life, and providing them with mental health and wellbeing support is a vital component.

I'm delighted this programme will bring our health and education systems even closer together, building on the progress of our existing trailblazer sites and using the expertise of our NHS to ensure children have quicker access to mental health support when they need it.

Research highlights the important role the school environment plays in equipping children and young people with skills to support their own wellbeing. The Department for Education has this week also launched an exercise to recruit a specialist provider to deliver training for senior mental health leads in schools and colleges, so they have the skills and knowledge to promote positive mental health and wellbeing and implement effective processes for children and young people to receive appropriate support.

CEO of the Anna Freud Centre Professor Peter Fonagy said:

With half of all lifetime cases of mental health disorders

beginning by the age of 14, there is no greater investment we can make from an economic or moral perspective than to promote the physical and mental health of children and young people. We need to give them the help they need when they need it and to think differently about how to deliver support. The Link Programme does exactly that.

The Link Programme brings together mental health and education professionals to work together to promote mental health and alleviate children and young people's distress. This way we can identify their needs early and sign post them to the best support.

This is a transformative programme and one which we at the Anna Freud Centre are proud to lead. It's an indication of the groundswell of support that it is funded by the Department for Education, supported by NHS England and 13 partners from local authorities, health providers and the charity sector.

The second wave of Mental Health Support Team areas will benefit from early intervention support to young people with mild to moderate mental health needs. Teams will use the evidence available from research and other studies to strengthen the support that is available in schools and colleges, basing it on what they know is already working.

Claire Murdoch, NHS England's National Mental Health Director, said:

The NHS is treating more children and young people for mental health conditions than ever before, and by offering expert mental health training in schools and identifying illness earlier we can help thousands more families to get the help they need to take care of their children.

The announcements build on the Government's wider investment in children's mental health and wellbeing in schools and colleges, including compulsory health education lessons from 2020, to ensure every young person is given the tools to thrive despite challenges they may face growing up.