

Reporting and Feedback Working Party

The group will assume the business of the Home Office - led Money Laundering Reporting Taskforce (MLRTF) and the Regulated Sector Discussion Forum (RSDF).

Chair:

Stephen Webb, Head of Organised & Financial Crime Unit, Home Office

Membership:

Initially as in the MLRTF:

- HM Treasury
- HM Revenue and Customs
- National Criminal Intelligence Service
- Association of Chief Police Officers
- British Bankers' Association (3 members)
- The Law Society
- Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
- Financial Services Authority

Others to be considered by the working party.

Frequency:

Quarterly, or as business requires

Status:

Likely to be medium term

Terms of Reference:

To foster partnership between government, law enforcement and the private sector to ensure the SAR regime generates valuable intelligence at as low a cost as is practicable to disclosing institutions and ensure that the regulated sector receives adequate feedback on reporting.

Objectives:

- to advise the MLAC plenary group on:
 - what measures need to be taken to improve the system, and their relative priorities; and
 - the actions intended and progress made by all stakeholders in improving the SAR system;
- to explain the value of the SAR regime to those involved in the reporting regime, by communicating to them the use made of those reports in fighting crime; and
- to provide input about the SAR regime to work on developing money laundering strategy more generally.

Specific areas for discussion by the group:

- NCIS progress updates – including details of the numbers of SARs received, areas of unusually high/low reporting, quality issues.
- LEA use of SARs and feedback to reporting institutions. Issues arising from the report by the Jill Dando Institute into law Enforcement use of SARs.
- Confidentiality of SARs – guidance being developed by Home Office and partners.
- Possible further areas for development of Part 7 of POCA , where appropriate.

Recent progress in this area:

The Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005, which received Royal Assent in April, contains provisions amending Part 7 of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002. The amendments are intended to:

- reduce the burden on the regulated sector in complying with the requirements to report money laundering;
- respond to other concerns about the legislation which the regulated sector have raised; and
- improve the effectiveness of the system.

When implemented, there will be changes in relation to: (a) the position over proceeds deriving from conduct overseas; (b) the circumstances under which pre-transaction consent needs to be sought (c) some exemptions over what has to be reported; and (d) reduced penalties over the failure to use the form in which reports have to be made.