



COVID-19 FRAUD MINISTERIAL BOARD
PAPER 2: COVID-19 FRAUD MINISTERIAL BOARD TERMS OF REFERENCE

[APPROVED]

Membership

Core

- For Cabinet Office and Treasury: **Lord Agnew, Minister of State, [Co-Chair]**
- For Home Office: **James Brokenshire, Security Minister, [Co-Chair]**
- For HM Treasury: **John Glen, Economic Secretary to the Treasury**
- For Health and Social Care: **Lord Bethell, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Department of Health and Social Care)**
- For Work and Pensions - **Will Quince, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Welfare Delivery)**
- For Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy: **Nadhim Zahawi, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Business and Industry)**
- For Housing, Communities and Local Government: **Simon Clarke (Minister for Regional Growth and Local Government)**
- For Digital, Culture, Media and Sport: **Caroline Dinenage, Minister of State, (Minister for Digital and Culture)**

Invited for the Legislative Workstream:

- For Attorney General's Office: **Rt. Hon Michael Ellis QC, Solicitor General**

Other Regular attendees:

- For Cabinet Office: **Alex Chisholm, Chief Operating Officer for Civil Service & Permanent Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Attendance as Required)**
- For Cabinet Office: **Lyn McDonald, Director of Fraud, Error, Debt and Grants Management Functions, Secretariat**
- For Cabinet Office: **Mark Cheeseman, Director, Public Sector Fraud, Secretariat**
- For Home Office: **Duncan Tessier, Director of Serious and Organised Crime Funding and Economic Crime, Secretariat**

Short Terms of Reference (Public use)

To oversee the COVID-19 fraud response and in particular the impact on public sector fraud

Long Terms of Reference (Internal use)

This ministerial board is established following the General Public Sector Implementation Group recommendations as amended 15th May 2020:

1. The COMMITTEE agreed the recommendations on tackling the public sector fraud threat as a result of COVID-19, namely:
 - a. ALL DEPARTMENTS, with support from the CABINET OFFICE, to commit to post event assurance activity and to develop an action plan by the end of May. (*An extension to 12th June was provided*)
 - b. CABINET OFFICE to work with other departments to invest in intelligence sharing.
 - c. CABINET OFFICE to explore any new legislative powers that might be needed, or existing legislation to be better understood and used.
 - d. CABINET OFFICE to commission a review of lessons learned.

2. The COMMITTEE agreed the recommendation for the CABINET OFFICE to oversee activities to tackle all COVID-19 related fraud in a new Ministerial Board, to be chaired by LORD AGNEW OF OULTON MINISTER OF STATE.

The Board will coordinate and advise on the response to fraud for COVID-19 with a focus on the public sector. It will report, if required, to the newly formed COVID-19 MINISTERIAL BOARD(S), and will meet to ensure that the recommendations outlined are given appropriate consideration in a timely manner.

In particular the committee will:

- Gain an understanding of what fraud and irregularity there was in the COVID-19 stimulus packages, repurposed grants and increased demand and if there is any further policy action needed as a result.
- Review the use of existing legislation and consider the need for new legislation for public bodies, wider law enforcement and the banking sector to counter fraud in response to COVID-19;
- Review the opportunities to increase fraud intelligence sharing between banks, police and public sector post COVID-19; and
- Oversee a lessons learnt review of the public sector fraud response to COVID-19 to inform future emergency management responses.
- Agree a timetable for action on the points above

Further detail on the scope of the Terms of Reference is provided in Annex A

Management Information

As appropriate, the committee will be provided with updated versions of the following documents:

- COVID-19 Counter Fraud dashboard updating on the key recommendations
- Specific papers relating to each recommendation

Secretariat Arrangements

The Cabinet Office, Home Office and Treasury will co-secretariat the meetings.

Frequency

The first meeting is proposed to take place on the 16th July and then monthly until October when the Board will consider the requirement for future meetings and the frequency of them.