

FRC Leaders' Convention 2026
Celtic Manor
20 - 21 April

DAY ONE

9:00 - 9:50

Registration | Caernarfon Suite Reception

9:50 - 10:00

Opening Remarks | Blue Room

Matthew Tataryn, Director of Financial Crime Risk at Tide

Matthew Tataryn will bring his infectious enthusiasm to hosting this event. He thrives in the fast-paced challenge of scaling financial crime functions in a high-growth fintech environment. Prior to Tide, Matthew held financial crime leadership roles at Santander, Barclays and Amazon

10:00 - 10:40

Keynote | Blue Room

Frontline Fraud Intelligence: Scams Emerging in March – April 2026

Peter Griffin, the renowned honeypot scam investigator

Peter Griffin will deliver a real-time intelligence briefing - straight from direct conversations with scammers. Drawing on chats, calls and direct transcripts from real scammer conversations, he will reveal their latest tactics and show how they have evolved in the first months of 2026. Looking at fast evolving AI-enabled approaches as well as revealing the precise pressure points scammers exploit to manipulate victims, this session is designed to give financial institutions immediate, actionable awareness of how their customers are being targeted. Peter will also share how the AI arms race (honeypots vs scammers) is shaping up. Who is winning and where might it go next?

10:40 - 11:20

Keynote | Blue Room
Challenging Convention

Bernadette Smith, Chief Compliance Officer at Starling Bank

In this candid on-stage keynote, Bernadette Smith, Chief Compliance Officer at Starling Bank, shares the strategies she's pursuing in today's regulatory and financial crime climate - and why. Known for cutting her own path and challenging convention, In this candid on-stage keynote, Bernadette Smith, Chief Compliance Officer at Starling Bank, shares the strategies she's pursuing in today's regulatory and financial crime climate - and why. Known for cutting her own path and challenging convention, she'll also explore how her distinctive leadership style is reshaping what compliance leadership can look like, where authenticity, courage and fresh thinking are becoming essential qualities for modern leaders., she'll also explore how her distinctive leadership style is reshaping what compliance leadership can look like, where authenticity, courage and fresh thinking are becoming essential qualities for modern leaders.

11:20 - 11:40

Tea & Coffee Refreshment & Networking Break

11:40 - 12:20

Panel | Blue Room
Regulatory Question Time: Ask the Experts

Bring the regulatory questions keeping you awake at night. In this live Q&A session, a panel of industry experts will respond to the issues raised by the audience - from emerging regulatory expectations to the real-world challenges of implementation. Expect candid answers, practical insight and a lively discussion shaped by you.

- **Moderator:** Oliver Hanmer, Managing Director, UK FCC Advisory Practise at Capgemini (former PSR)
- Jonathan Charles, Director at Grant Thornton
- Nafisa Feeney, GM & Head of Legal UK, Paynt

Roundtables | Red Room

This is a Chatham House Rule deep dive discussion, with plenty of peer to peer learning and discussion in a small group setting. It promises to be an educational, and lively discussion, so please make sure you're in the Red Room a few minutes before it starts.

Building a 360° Risk View with AI-Powered Scoring

Hosted & Moderated by Risk & AI Expert, Ruan Scott at Detect X

Orchestration of KYC & AML: being ready for AMLR and beyond

Hosted & Moderated by KYC & AML Expert Jens Verboven at Harmony

Operationalising AI Governance: Practical Frameworks to Manage Third-Party AI Risk and Ensure Compliance

Hosted & Moderated by Risk & Compliance Experts Henry Umney & Brian Fitzpatrick from Mitrastech

Adverse Media in the Age of Generative AI: Opportunities, Threats, and Responsible Deployment

Hosted and Moderated by Onboarding and Compliance Risk Expert Greg Levene from Sigma360

Drop-ins & Peer to peer meetings | Green Zone

12:30 - 13:15

Live Interview | Blue Room

From Chief Compliance Officer to CEO: Stepping into the Top Job

Chet Shah, CEO at Wirex Ltd

Tim Tyler, Vice President at ICA

In this on-stage interview, Chet Shah shares how he made the leap from Chief Compliance Officer to CEO at Wirex Ltd. We'll explore which unique qualities of the senior risk leader skillset can become powerful advantages in getting to the top, and help successful decision-making at CEO level.

Just two years ago, Chet attended the FRC Leaders Convention as Wirex Ltd's CCO; now he returns to the stage to share a rare perspective with you all.

The Legend's Slot: Interview with The Godfather of AML, Dr Michael Levi

Dr Michael Levi, Professor of Criminology at Cardiff University

Emma Williams, Director of Risk & Compliance, MLRO and Global Head of AML at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP.

This is a rare opportunity to hear from one of the most influential voices in the fight against financial crime. In this live interview, renowned criminologist Dr Michael Levi whose decades of research have shaped global understanding of fraud, organised crime, and money laundering. Dr Michael Levi will share his perspective on current approaches to financial crime prevention in this live interview. He will be joined by the sharp-minded Emma Williams, Director of Risk & Compliance, MLRO, and Global Head of AML at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP. Both speakers sit on The Law Society's Money Laundering Task Force.

Expect thoughtful insight and candid reflections from one of the field's true pioneers.

12:30 - 13:10

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Beyond the black box: governance strategies for agentic AI in financial crime control frameworks

Hosted and moderated by Financial Crime Expert, Iain Armstrong - Executive Director, FCC Strategy at Comply Advantage

From Months to Days: Accelerating Crypto-HNWI Onboarding with Automated Wealth Narratives

Hosted & Moderated by Diligence Expert Henry Burrows, Founder at Hoptrail

Combating Evolving Money Laundering Tactics : An analysis of the friction between instant global payments, cross-chain DeFi and the regulatory pressure for real-time intervention.

Hosted and Moderated by AML Expert, John Bennet from Telus Digital

Beyond the 3-Year Cycle: Moving from Costly & Inflexible Periodic Reviews to Data-Drive Perpetual KYC - Customer Due Diligence (CDD) & KYC

Hosted and moderated by KYC Expert Tom Devlin, CCO at KYC360

Drop-ins & Peer to peer meetings | Green Zone

13:15 - 14:00

Lunch (provided) | Foyer outside Main Auditorium

14:00 - 14:40

Panel | Blue Room

Banking on Crypto: A Compliance Showdown

Crypto says it's ready for banking. Some banks aren't convinced. Is the problem caution from banks or standards in crypto? As traditional finance expands into digital assets, new partnerships are emerging alongside renewed scrutiny around AML, financial crime, and risk controls. At the same time, crypto-native firms are investing heavily in governance and regulatory alignment. Banks remain cautious, pointing to ongoing concerns around risk, regulatory expectations and operational standards. In this candid on-stage discussion, leaders from both sides of the argument explore why the gap in perception persists and what it will take to build greater confidence between crypto businesses and financial institutions.

- **Moderator:** Mark Taylor Global Head of FinCrime at CEX.io
- Dayna Bordin. UK MLRO at GSR
- Pallavi Kapale, Senior Financial Crime Officer, (FIU) at Bank of China
- Tom Boydell, Senior Compliance Manager at Kraken

14:00 - 14:40

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Can GenAI reduce KYC periodic review handling time?

Hosted & Moderated by KYC Expert, Mark Sully, from AML Rightsource

The Threat Within: The Financial Crime Risk Hiding in Plain Sight (Financial crime doesn't always start with a fraudster outside your walls)

Hosted and Moderated by Financial Crime Expert Phil Roberts from Jade

The Evolving ATO Threat Landscape in 2026: Current Trends & Future Predictions

Hosted and Moderated by Fraud Prevention Expert Shaun Per from Fingerprint

Breaking the Risk Silos: Integrating Fraud and AML into a Unified AI Ecosystem

Hosted by AI and Risk Experts Tony Parker and Kieran Thompson from Oscilar

14:50 - 15:30

Keynote | Blue Room

AI Without the Jargon: What You Actually Need to Know

Zahraa Murtaza, SVP Agile Coach at BNY

This keynote demystifies AI for professionals at all levels. Led by Zahraa Murtaza of BNY, it brings a practitioner's perspective, equipping participants to ask better questions, challenge assumptions and confidently shape how AI is applied within their organisations. With a strong focus on real-world application, attendees will identify meaningful, practical uses of AI that free up time for the complex, high-value work only humans can do.

Roundtables | Red Room

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Follow the Value, Not the Path: Modernising Transaction Monitoring for Cross-Border Payments

Hosted and Moderated by Transaction Monitoring Expert Mayra De La Garza - Global Head of Compliance for Skylight, a Euronet Brand

Smarter, Faster, Safer: AI's Role in the Future of Financial Crime Prevention

Hosted and Moderated by Financial Crime AI Experts Amy Cleall and Lola Magrath from Flagright

The Future of Fraud: The Emerging Threat Landscape and How to Stay Ahead of Bad Actors

Hosted and Moderated by Financial Crime and Fraud Expert, Oliver Hanmer from Capgemini

Drop-ins & Peer to peer meetings | Green Zone

15:30 - 15:45

Tea & Coffee Refreshment & Networking Break

15:45 - 15:50

Keynote Preview | Blue Room

The Investigation That Put a £5bn Crypto Fraudster Behind Bars

Detective Sergeant Isabella Grotto, Metropolitan Police

Detective Sergeant Isabella Grotto gives a teaser for her headline keynote (an FRC exclusive) on bringing down Chinese fraudster Zhimin Qian taking place on Tuesday.

15:50 - 16:30

Keynote | Blue Room

Blockades, Flotillas, Straits and Deals

Chloe Cina, National Security Partner at Cina Fernandez

Dara Fernandez, National Security Partner at Cina Fernandez

Dara Fernandez and Chloe Cina sit down for a fireside chat exploring the geopolitical flashpoints reshaping global trade and maritime security. From naval blockades to contested straits, and from humanitarian flotillas to backroom diplomatic deals, they examine how these instruments of statecraft are being deployed in an era of renewed great power competition. Drawing on practical experience advising clients navigating sanctions, export controls and supply chain disruptions, Dara and Chloe discuss what these developments mean for businesses, financial institutions and governments operating in an increasingly fragmented international order. A candid, accessible conversation for leaders seeking strategic clarity.

16:30 - 16:35

Closing Remarks | Blue Room

Matthew Tataryn, Director of Financial Crime Risk at Tide

17:00 - 18:30

Optional Social activities

- Golf Driving Range (limited availability)
- Crazy Golf (limited availability)
- Swim, Steam and Sauna

18:45 - 19:15

Leaders' Drinks Reception | Foyer

19:15 - 21:45

The Leaders' Dinner | Blue Room

Hosted by Christian Hunt

Christian will deliver a three-course stand-up routine, exploring the contradictions and very human dynamics that sit at the heart of modern compliance. Not as a keynote or lecture, but as a stand-up comedy routine.

Drawing on his experience as a former Regulator, Compliance Officer and Head of Behavioural Science at UBS, he'll trade the traditional keynote for punchlines, putting the profession itself under the spotlight.

There's nothing funny about compliance, or is there? We're about to find out.

DAY TWO

Optional Activities

- (From 6:00) Hotel Gym / Pool
- (7:30) Early Risers walk - We will stick to footpaths but please wear suitable footwear and clothing. Meet at Reception.
- (7:30) Early Risers Run - We will stick to footpaths but please wear suitable footwear and clothing. Meet at Reception.
- (8:00) Fellow Female Fighters of Financial Crime Breakfast Meet Up - Hosted by Nicole Bossieux. No need to book or be an existing member, just drop in and say Hello!

9:00 - 9:15

Opening Remarks & Industry Update | Blue Room

Matthew Tataryn, Director of Financial Crime Risk at Tide

Linda Homewood, Fraud and Scams Ambassador at The Cyber Helpline

9:15 - 9:55

Panel | Blue Room

The Future of Financial Crime: AAL and Other Emerging Threats

We will be exploring the future of financial crime, and asking what our biggest challenges will be in 2030? We'll explore where autonomous and adversarial AI systems evolve faster than traditional AML controls. Anti-Autonomous Laundering (AAL) is the next evolution of AML - designed to combat AI-driven, self-optimising financial crime systems rather than traditional human-led laundering. Plus, our experienced panel of leaders will offer perceptive views on the next frontier of Financial Crime.

- **Moderator:** Iain Armstrong, Executive Director, FCC Strategy at ComplyAdvantage
- Filipina Weclowska, UK MLRO at TransferGo
- Cristiana Trigo, Group Head of Financial Crime at Aptia Group
- Adriana Fabianski, Global Head of Financial Crime Compliance, Investment Banking at ING
- Ashley Clarke, Senior Vice President at Citi

9:55 - 10:35

Panel | Blue Room

Global Regulation, UK Impact

As the global regulatory landscape evolves, UK financial institutions must respond to reforms that extend beyond domestic rules. From the EU's Anti-Money Laundering Authority (AMLA) to PSD3 and the Payment Services Regulation, international frameworks are increasingly shaping expectations for firms with cross-border exposure. At the same time, the FCA is moving toward a more integrated supervisory approach, bringing payments, fintech, crypto and traditional finance under a broader regulatory umbrella. This panel will explore why these global developments matter for UK Chief Compliance Officers and what firms should prioritise now to stay ahead of a more interconnected regulatory environment.

- **Moderator:** Mark Sully, Managing Director EMEA & APAC Commercial Affairs at AML Rightsource
- Sacha Czarnuszewicz, Group Regulatory Risk Lead at Wise
- Ben Rank, Head of Compliance UK/ MLRO at Raiffeisen Bank International
- Amasis Saba, Business Acceptance Director & MLCO at Simmons and Simmons

10:35 - 11:00

Tea & Coffee Refreshment & Networking Break

SANDBOX LIVE | Green Zone

Get hands-on with some of 2026's most progressive tools and compare them to your current solutions. In our special 'Sandbox Live' session, where you can try, test and play with a range of technology.

Running from 10:35 to 12:45

10:40 - 11:40

Interactive Workshop | Purple Room
Cyber Security Crisis Simulation

In this interactive crisis simulation based on a real life scenario, you'll play a key part in the team dealing with it. Will you negotiate with the attackers? How will you recover? Come and find out in this 60-minute fast-paced exercise run by Eliza May Austin & Rosie Anderson from th4ts3cur1ty.com

11:00 - 11:45

Keynote | Blue Room
Special Live Edition of The Dark Money Files

Very Special Guest Martin Swain Director of Intelligence and Law Enforcement at Companies House, will be interviewed by presenters Graham Barrow & Ray Blake. Martin is responsible for intelligence functions and collaboration with law enforcement in relation to economic crime.

SANDBOX LIVE | Green Zone

Get hands-on with some of 2026's most progressive tools and compare them to your current solutions. In our special 'Sandbox Live' session, where you can try, test and play with a range of technology - running from 10:35 to 12:45.

11:45 - 12:45

Special Guest Headline Keynote | Blue Room

The Investigation That Put a £5bn Crypto Fraudster Behind Bars

Detective Sergeant Isabella Grotto, Metropolitan Police

For the first time at a conference, Detective Sergeant Isabella Grotto, who led the Metropolitan Police investigation, shares the inside story of the case that brought down Chinese fraudster Zhimin Qian. The investigation uncovered a vast investment fraud and money-laundering operation involving more than 61,000 Bitcoin worth over £5 billion - the largest cryptocurrency seizure ever recorded. In this exclusive keynote, DS Grotto will reveal how investigators followed the digital money trail across jurisdictions, uncovered the laundering network behind the scheme, and built the case that ultimately secured a prison sentence. A rare opportunity to hear firsthand how one of the most extraordinary financial crime investigations of the crypto era unfolded and what it teaches us about the evolving fight against fraud and money laundering.

12:45 - 13:30

Lunch (provided) | Foyer outside Main Auditorium

13:30 - 14:10

Panel | Blue Room

Lessons from Outside: Interesting Past Lives & What Other Industries Can Teach FinCrime

Many successful leaders in AML and financial crime didn't start their careers in compliance. In this panel, industry leaders share the unexpected professional backgrounds that shaped their approach to fighting financial crime - from other sectors, disciplines and ways of thinking. What skills and perspectives have they carried into their current roles, and what can our industry learn from outside its traditional talent pool? The discussion will explore how diverse experience can strengthen financial crime teams and where organisations should be looking creatively to attract the next generation of talent.

- **Moderator:** John Paul Eaton, Head of UK at Needl
- Alex Henderson, VP of Compliance at Midnite
- Ambreen Khasru, Head of Compliance at eTorro
- John Vallis, Chief Compliance Officer at checkout.com

14:10 - 14:50

Casestudy | Blue Room

Monzo Calling

Rich Bromley, Director, Head of Fraud & Disputes Risk, Financial Crime at Monzo

Monzo has built a reputation for thinking differently about common industry challenges. In this case study, Rich Bromley shares the thinking and process behind their in-app solution designed to tackle impersonation scams. It'll be a case study packed with take-aways and fresh thinking to inspire your own way of looking at common problems.

14:50 - 15:00

Closing Remarks | Blue Room

Matthew Tataryn, Director of Financial Crime Risk at Tide

15:00 - 15:20

Final networking session

END OF CONVENTION