

SANCTIONS CONFERENCE MANCHESTER 2026



ORGANISED BY:



SANCTIONS
SOS

SPONSORS:



**Global
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Law, Practice and Guidance



TUESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2026
HYATT REGENCY

CENTRAL MANCHESTER, UK



VISION

We created this conference with you in mind - to redefine how sanctions events can support compliance professionals. Too often, conferences in this space get stuck on surface-level updates, fleeting networking, or a narrow, senior-centric lens. We wanted something different: a forum that delivers depth, inclusivity, and lasting value.

1. Quality Over Quantity

With places strictly limited, we ensure deep, high-quality discussions among sanctions professionals. This intimate setting fosters meaningful connections, impactful insights, and real engagement - extending far beyond surface-level chats and business card exchanges.

2. By Sanctions Experts, For Sanctions Experts

Unlike typical industry events, this conference is designed by sanctions professionals who truly understand the challenges you face. Our agenda is built around experience-driven knowledge. This provides you with applicable strategies from those navigating the same regulatory complexities as you.

3. Bridging Sectors and Perspectives

From junior staff to seniors executives, across industry, government, or academia: every perspective shapes the future of sanctions compliance. We have created an inclusive space where all attendees can contribute, learn, and make an impact - allowing for innovative collaboration and fresh ideas.

4. Focused on Long-Term Impact

We focus on lasting expertise. Rather than chasing trends, we provide strategies and skills that endure shifts in regulation and geopolitics. With immersive workshops and expert-led discussions, you'll leave with practical insights to strengthen your compliance approach long after the conference ends.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Manchester on 8 September.

Best wishes from your Conference hosts,

The Sanctions SOS Team

Ian Bolton, Founder & CEO
Mathilde Gerritsma, Associate



[Get your tickets to the SCM 2026 here](#)

MISSION



Space For Genuine Dialogue

We foster meaningful conversations where every voice counts. Through authentic networking and knowledge-sharing across industries, we strengthen our collective ability to navigate sanctions compliance.

Expert Speakers, Real Impact

Our carefully chosen speakers deliver both strategic insight and practical guidance - equipping you with lasting expertise on sanctions evasion, export controls, screening, and investigations.

Getting To The Heart of Sanctions

Beyond a conference, we are building a community that educates, supports, and empowers professionals to meet sanctions challenges with confidence.

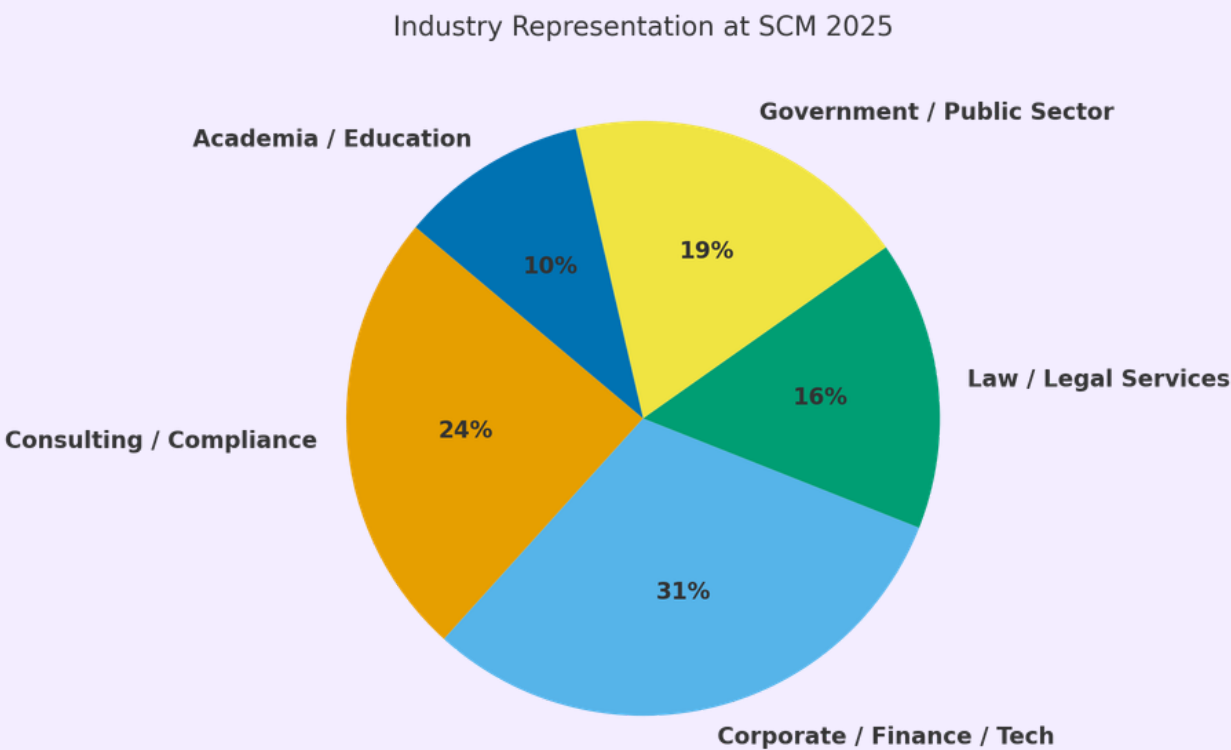


**Sanctions
Conference
Manchester**

*For Sanctions Professionals
By Sanctions Professionals*

2025 STATS & TESTIMONIALS

- 100% of attendees rated the event excellent
- 40+ attendees from industry, government, and academia
- 21 expert speakers featured across 5 unique panels
- Keynote address from the FCDO, offering exclusive insights into the future of sanctions



Mark Handley
Partner – Duane Morris

The conference was great for having a range of speakers with different perspectives. It was especially valuable in having so many people from the British government (e.g. OFSI, FCDO, Department of Transport)



Stephanie Broekaart
Partner – Agorax

An excellent event bringing together industry, consultancy, law firms, and academia in a truly valuable exchange of insights!



Andrew Roberts
Global Head of Financial Crime Prevention – Enstar Group

The agenda was well balanced, included practical and useful information that will be genuinely useful in solving some of the challenges faced by organisations today. The speakers all brought something different and interesting. It was great to have such an open conversation involving leaders from both private and public sector, learning from and challenging each other.



Dr. Mayya Konovalova
Lecturer Accountancy, Taxation, Anti-Money Laundering – Birmingham Business School

The Sanctions Conference in Manchester was exceptionally well-organised, bringing together a diverse range of stakeholders, from policymakers and academics to business leaders. I especially valued the breadth of perspectives and the depth of insight shared throughout the sessions. Thanks to Ian and Mathilde for making such a well-curated and enriching event.



Monika Zejden-Erdmann
International Trade Partner – Eversheds Sutherland

The conference is an excellent opportunity for sanctions professionals to get together and share experiences and legal updates. It provides unparalleled networking opportunities and a platform for first class thought leadership.



Hui Hui
Senior Officer, CDD – Bank of China

Given the critical importance of Sanctions compliance within the banking and financial services sector, we are honoured and mindful of the responsibilities involved in participating in such high-level event [...]. I found the sessions highly insightful and relevant to our work, believe the knowledge gained will contribute meaningfully to our ongoing efforts in this area.



Flutter Entertainment
If you're based in the North West and want to know what's happening in global sanctions, this is where you go. Better depth and breadth than others I have attended. The conference featured informative sessions where both regulators and industry were well-represented.



UK Government
A great opportunity for people from across the sanctions world to come together and discuss their insights and views on pertinent sanctions-related topics. The time spent having and listening to different discussions was valuable. It was also great to meet so many attendees from different background and professions, all with an interest in sanctions. The day was organised brilliantly.



Jeremy Round
Managing Director – Active AML
Meaningful discussion, great access to government, people airing genuine thoughts rather than reciting prepared propaganda.



Peters & Peters LLP
The engagement of senior government officials was very impressive and made for an extremely valuable conference.

[Get your tickets to the SCM 2026 here](#)

SCM 2026 - AGENDA



08:30	Registration, coffee and teas
09:00	Welcome remarks by your hosts Ian Bolton, CEO, Sanctions SOS, and Mathilde Gerritsma, Policy and Outreach Associate, Sanctions SOS
09:05	Keynote Fireside Chat: Government Perspectives from the UK, EU, and US Sanctions SOS Founder and CEO Ian Bolton will moderate a fireside chat with representatives from the UK’s Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, the European Unions External Action Service to discuss the challenges facing the sanctions and export control community in 2026, and key government developments in the UK, EU, and US. Confirmed speakers: Esther Blythe, Deputy Director Russia Sanctions & Measures, Sanctions Directorate, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, UK Government ; Tomas Sindelar, Deputy Head of Sanctions Division, European External Action Service, European Union <i>Potential speakers from: OFAC (US Government)*</i>
09:40	Panel 1 - The Expanding and Changing Role of Sanctions Compliance in a Converging Public-Private Landscape Compliance is no longer limited to regulated sectors. As sanctions regimes evolve, responsibility, information-sharing, and risk management are increasingly shaped by deeper cooperation between public authorities and private actors. This panel explores how sanctions compliance is changing in practice, and what this shift means for effectiveness, accountability, and long-term capability across the sanctions ecosystem. Confirmed speakers: Zhanel Auèzova, Lead Global Sanctions Procedures & Guidance (1st line), Rabobank (Netherlands) ; Megan Gardner, Sanctions Analyst, Flutter ; Dan Marcos, Head of Financial Sanctions Unit, Government of Jersey (Jersey) ; Aqshar Khaliq, Director of Sanctions, UK Finance ; Rob Henson, Head of Sanctions and Export Controls, Maples Group (Jersey)
10:25	Panel 2 - Sanctions and the world of maritime and logistics: Best Practices Amid increasing compliance demands, and ever more sophisticated sanctions evasion The logistics world is one of the most dynamic and complex in which to manage sanctions risks, from the need for swift compliance checks in air-freight to understanding and countering maritime evasion tactics this world is constantly having to adapt. In particular the growth of Russia’s shadow fleet, Iranian shipping networks, and Venezuela’s role in this has significantly impacted sanctions work. This panel examines best practices for identifying and assessing sanctions risks, and responding to evolving maritime sanctions risks, from AIS manipulation and ownership opacity to enforcement coordination and intelligence use. Confirmed speaker: Anu Mathur Boyd, Head of Sanctions and Export Controls, Maersk , Michelle Boekmann, Intelligence Analyst, Windward

* May be subject to change at any point

Potential speakers from: NorthStandard, DfT- UK Government, RUSI, Lloyds of London, AXA*





11:10

Networking Coffee Break

11:40

Panel 3 - The challenge of crypto-currencies in the world of sanctions

The growth of crypto-assets has transformed how value can move across borders, creating new opportunities for legitimate commerce but also new avenues for sanctions evasion. Governments and industry are responding with increasingly sophisticated regulatory frameworks, blockchain intelligence, and investigative techniques. This panel examines how organisations can navigate the evolving crypto ecosystem, identify sanctions risks, and build effective controls in an increasingly digital financial landscape.

Confirmed speakers: Nick Turner, Partner, **Arkrivis Law (USA)**; Noémi Klein, Director, **HKA**; Sandra Saddler, Regulatory Compliance Specialist, **BriMark Consulting**; Marcus Mølleskov, Chief Risk and Compliance Officer, **Januar (Denmark)**;

*Potential speakers from: Malta FIAU, Gibraltar FIU; European Commission (DG FISMA)**

12:25

Panel 4 - Staying Ahead of Sanctions Evasion in an Era of Intensified Enforcement

As sanctions evasion typologies grow more widespread and increasingly sophisticated, staying ahead of them has become a moving target for both governments and the private sector. At the same time, enforcement activity is intensifying, with authorities signalling lower tolerance for compliance failures and greater expectations on risk detection and controls. This panel will explore how organisations can anticipate emerging evasion techniques and adapt their sanctions frameworks in an era of heightened scrutiny.

Confirmed speakers: Ian Bolton, CEO, **Sanctions SOS**; Mark Handley, Partner, **Duane Morris**; Friedrich Lindenberg, CEO, **OpenSanctions (Germany)**; Freya Page, Director Global Outreach, **Kharon**; Olivia Allison, Independent Researcher, **SOC ACE**

*Potential speakers from: OFSI, EU-based FIU**

13:10

Lunch & Networking in the Hyatt Restaurant (ground floor)

Three-course buffet lunch including meat, fish, and vegetarian options

14:10

Panel 5 - Sanctions Compliance in Manufacturing and Goods-Producing Sectors: From Theory to Practice

Manufacturers and other goods-producing businesses face distinct challenges in building and operating effective sanctions compliance programmes, from complex supply chains and dual-use risks to limited visibility over end users. This panel will examine the practical realities of implementing sanctions controls in production-focused environments and how firms can balance compliance obligations with operational and commercial pressures.

Confirmed speaker: OTSI, **UK Government**; Steve Walton, Compliance Manager, **Reliance Precision**; Stéphanie Broekaart, Partner, **Agorax Legal (Netherlands)**;

*Potential speakers from: HM Customs, SpaceTime Consulting, Bosch, BAE Systems, Rolls Royce, Nissan **

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** May be subject to change at any point*

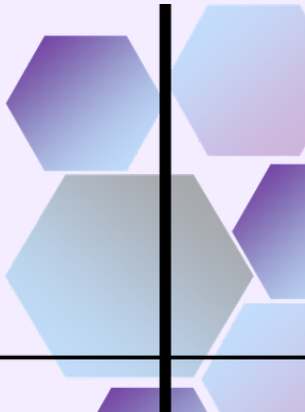




14:55	Networking Coffee Break
15:15	Immersive Scenario Workshop: The importance of Screening <i>(Sanctions SOS in conjunction with OpenSanctions and Partner Organisations)</i> This exercise will be fully immersive and tables will be asked to work through the developing scenario, which will involve a number of artefacts and examining how make adjudications, including looking at some of the tools that can be used.
16:30	Panel 6 - Managing Sanctions in a Rapidly Changing Geopolitical Environment Sanctions regimes are evolving at pace as geopolitical tensions reshape alliances, enforcement priorities, and risk landscapes. This final panel will explore how organisations can adapt their sanctions strategies to remain resilient amid uncertainty, shifting political dynamics, and increasingly complex global compliance expectations. Confirmed speakers: Raj, Sidhu, Team Leader Legislation and External Stakeholders, Sanctions Directorate, FCDO, UK Government ; Louie Vargas, Founder, Network for Financial Crime Prevention (Denmark) ; James Pattison, Professor of Politics, University of Manchester ; Dalvinder Singh, Professor of Law, Warwick University
17:15	Wrap Up <i>Your hosts Ian Bolton and Mathilde Gerritsma will provide an overview of the days discussions, some of the key topics to emerge from the day, and a summary of the immersive workshop. They will explore the highlights and takeaways from the day. The session will finish with final announcements.</i>
17:20	Close
17:30	Informal Drinks (at nearby pub)

* May be subject to change at any point

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WISH TO ATTEND THE SCM 2026?

Tickets are now on sale.

Just £595.00

REGISTER HERE



Please note that there are only 50 tickets available for the Sanctions Conference Manchester 2026. Once they're gone - they're gone.

Prefer an invoice? Email us at enquiries@sanctionssos.com

Benefits

- 8 hours of Certified CPD hours
- SCM Booklet packed full of interesting thought leadership articles
- 20% off Global Sanctions Subscription
- Free Sanctions SOS Annual Membership
- Knowledge shared from wide spectrum of speakers
- Build and grow you network with sanctions and export control specialists



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