



Government  
Counter Fraud  
Profession

# The Government Counter Fraud Profession

Protecting public services  
and fighting economic crime





The Government Counter Fraud Profession will bring the UK public sector together to form a new Profession for those protecting public services and fighting economic crime



The **Government Counter Fraud Profession** has been built by experts, for experts. It brings together individual and organisational learning from across the public sector, and beyond, into one place. It will enable us take our next step in the fight against the constant threat of fraud. This is why we are seen as a global leader in public sector counter fraud.

With the launch of the Government Counter Fraud Profession we are demonstrating that **HM Government is committed to finding and dealing with fraud** across the public sector and beyond.

Sadly, fraud is a constant threat faced by both individuals and organisations. It is a hidden crime which evolves quickly, and where it is targeted against the public sector, it can damage the public services that citizens rely on.

Around 10,000 people work in organisations across the public sector to counter fraud. Fighting fraud takes hard work, dedication and the application of carefully nurtured skills. **The creation of the GCFP recognises this work, and the specialist skills and experience it takes to deliver it.**

The Profession sets out to **tackle fraud head on by committing to invest in this group of highly skilled people**, who are at the forefront of protecting public services and fighting economic crime. By providing the standards, guidance and tools for GCFP members to develop their knowledge, skills and experience, we will not only ensure public sector organisations benefit from a common understanding of the skills needed to counter fraud, but also recognise those professionals who lead the fight.

Those who join will play a pivotal role in development of the GCFP and what it becomes. Through the empowerment of its members, throughout their careers, the community created around the GCFP will continue to grow and develop, **to protect public services and fight economic crime.**

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**Mark Cheeseman**

Chair, Government Counter Fraud Professionals Board



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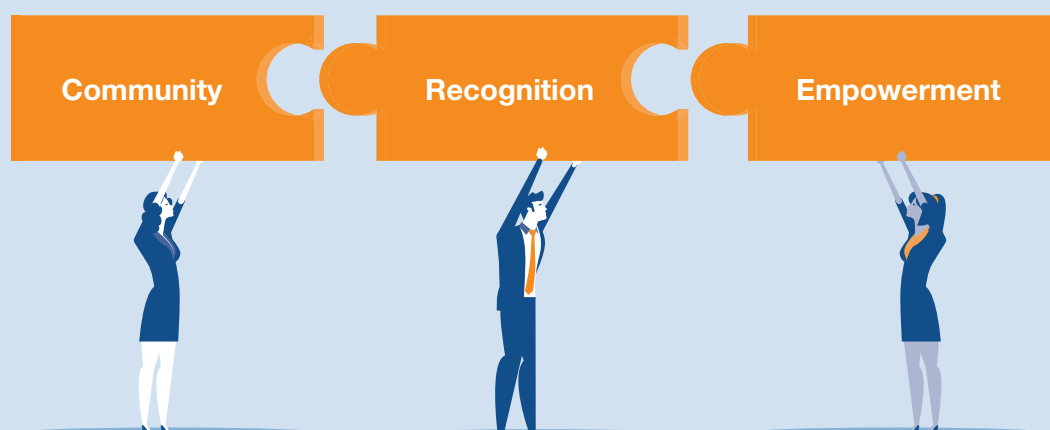


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# The Government Counter Fraud Profession

The Government Counter Fraud Profession (GCFP) is a structure for counter fraud specialists across central government.

It aims to bring the counter fraud community together under a common set of standards and develop that community as they protect public services and fight economic crime. As part of this new and active community, members will not only gain recognition and credibility for their specialist skill set, but also have access to the standards, guidance and products to help members develop their own career – not just with a focus on investigation, but now with a move towards new areas of risk prevention and the use of data analytics.

By ensuring that organisations across government know how to effectively prevent and tackle fraud, the GCFP puts the HM Government in a much stronger position to deal with the challenges presented by fraud, bribery and corruption; and enhances the UK's reputation as a global leader in this field.



*I see the development of the Counter Fraud Profession as a **massive step forward** in how we deal with fraud and economic crime in the public sector. It will enable us to **understand what expertise looks like**, where it lies and help us get it to the right areas. It will also **help our people get the best from their jobs**, and their careers.*



**John Manzoni**  
Chief Executive of  
the Civil Service and  
Permanent Secretary,  
(Cabinet Office)

## What does the GCFP do?

### Across the Civil Service



Raises the profile of counter fraud activity and the complex, evolving skill sets required to do it.

### Across all central government organisations



Sets consistent counter fraud standards across government.

### For each organisation



Provides the transparency needed to identify skilled staff and to tackle fraud effectively.

### For individuals



Empowers a new community of counter fraud specialists; giving them the recognition and credibility.

# Benefits to individuals



## Join an active counter fraud community

The GCFP has ambitious plans for its members. It hopes to build an active community of counter fraud specialists across the public sector and beyond; and members will receive regular news and updates relevant to counter fraud.



*I have a skill set that didn't seem to fit into any organisation back in 1994. Now it does. **For 25 years I've been looking for this!** It's great to have recognition and credibility for the skills I have and hard work that I do. The people that work for the government are motivated to keep the public purse safe.*

**Heather Morgan**  
GCFP Advisory Panel Member,  
(NHS CFA)



## Greater recognition and professional credibility

The GCFP gives recognition and credibility to those with counter fraud knowledge, skills and experience. By being recognised as a member of the GCFP, members can show that they have a level of expertise beyond those who are not in the Profession. They will also have a common Code of Ethics.



*As Head of the CPS Specialist Fraud Division, which provides an independent prosecution service to a number of Government Departments and Law Enforcement Agencies, I see **great public benefit in the creation and promotion of a single Profession** for those who investigate public sector fraud. I believe this will recognise and distinguish those with capability from those who don't. In turn, this will help **raise the quality of fraud investigations** and will help the CPS bring offenders to justice, seizing the proceeds of their crimes and reducing the impact on victims.*

**Kristin Jones**  
Head of Specialist Fraud Division,  
Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)



## Empowered to control your own development

The GCFP provides transparency across all disciplines used to counter fraud. Members are able to self-assess themselves against a set of common Professional Standards and Competencies, and develop their own personal development plans against a range of Disciplines. For example, those working in Investigation will be able to assess their skills in carrying out risk assessments.



*We welcome the introduction of the GCFP and are fully committed to supporting its development. This programme will **enhance the capability of our investigators** through access to a common set of professional standards and guidance. This is an important milestone in **providing a consistent approach to tackling fraud across government** and improving career pathways for fraud specialists.*

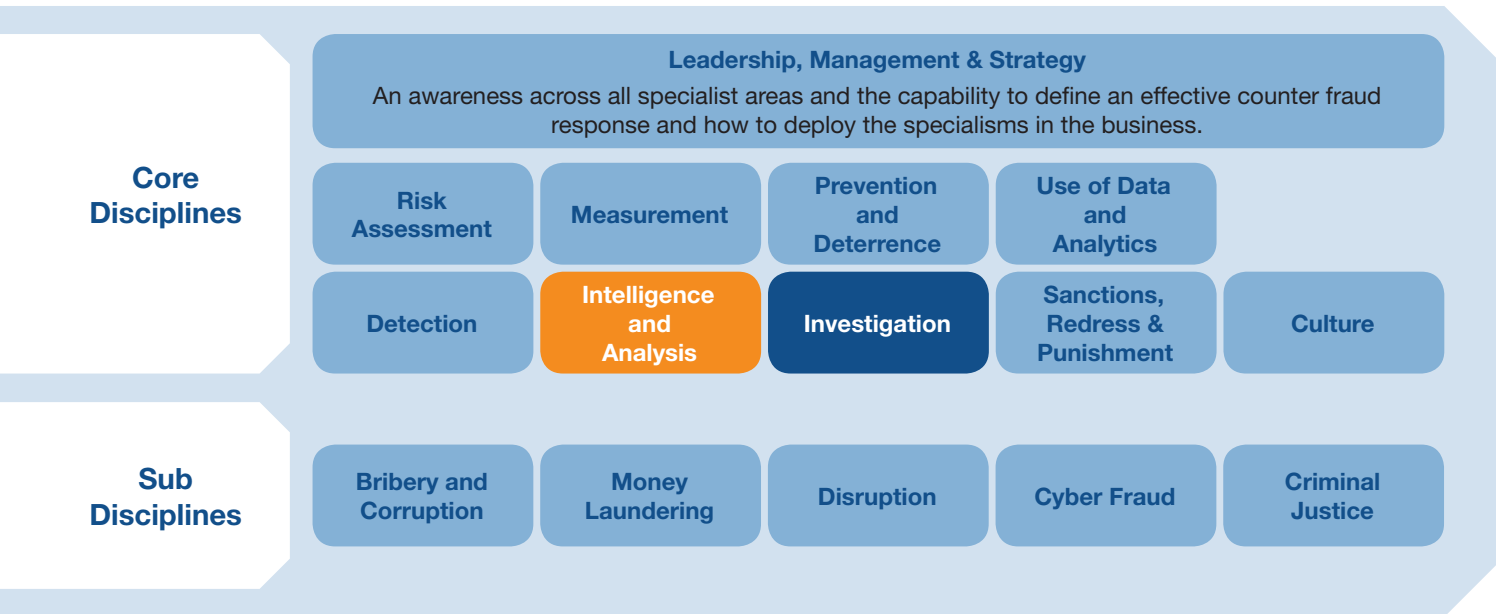
**Paul Golightly**  
Deputy Director, DHSC Anti-Fraud Unit,  
Department of Health and Social Care



# Key features: Professional Standards and Competencies

The GCFP provides pathways for individual capability building and career development, through access to the Professional Standards and Competencies.

These detail the knowledge, skills and experience expected of those working in a variety of counter fraud roles across the public sector. They will include risk assessment and the use of data analytics, formally developing the GCFP beyond the historical focus on investigation. These also offer a framework through which an organisation’s learning environments or an individual’s knowledge, skills and experience can be assessed when they apply to the GCFP, and as they develop throughout their career. The Professional Standards and Competencies are broken down into Core Disciplines and Sub-Disciplines, recognising the variety in counter fraud activity.



## Core Disciplines

Core Disciplines set out the knowledge, skills and experience that are called upon to deliver an effective counter fraud response.

The ten Core Disciplines are set out in the framework above. Nine of the Core Disciplines cover the full range of competencies required to have an effective counter fraud response; moving beyond a focus on ‘Investigation’ only. Counter fraud professional will work in different Disciplines, and sometimes across many.

Leadership, Management & Strategy’ is the tenth Core Discipline. It sets out the required competencies for an organisation’s counter fraud leader. This includes an awareness across all specialist areas, the capability to define an effective counter fraud response and how to deploy the specialisms in the business.

## Sub Disciplines

The framework also includes five Sub Disciplines. There are areas where knowledge, skills and experience overlap across Core Disciplines, and offer development of expertise relevant to those other areas. For example, the ‘Bribery and Corruption’ Sub Discipline does this by defining the additional skills required to prevent, risk assess and investigate bribery and corruption.



*The threat that fraud poses to the UK’s public services is **constantly evolving**, and so it is crucial that the skills and knowledge we have in the public sector to protect these services also evolves. The GCFP addresses this by not only **providing proper and welcome recognition of the talented and skilled counter fraud specialists** in the public sector, but also by ensuring that we have the right standards and the right culture to detect, report and counter fraud consistently across the whole of government.*



**Neil Green**  
Head of Counter Fraud and Investigation,  
Government Internal Audit Agency (GIAA)

# Key Features: Professional Skills Platform

The Professional Skills Platform (PSP) is a key tool of the GCFP for members.

As a web-based platform, the PSP – which acts as the formal register of the Profession – has a wide range of functions for members.

## The PSP enables members to:

- ✓ View the established Standards and Guidance across all available Disciplines.
- ✓ Access the self-assessment tool for self-evaluation and personal development against the knowledge, skills and experience relevant to their role.
- ✓ Self-assess personal knowledge, skills and experience against other counter fraud roles.
- ✓ Log personal Learning & Development activities, including training and mentoring.
- ✓ Self-declare specialisms, including technical and subject matter expertise.
- ✓ Self-evaluate and record evidence of your skills against the framework.



*The Government Counter Fraud Profession has **something to offer every individual**, whether they are new entrants or have been working in counter fraud for a long time. It will allow us to look at our employees' learning and development skills paths, giving them the opportunity to not only consolidate their learning to date, but also start to **build their capabilities for the future**.*



**Chris Freeman**  
GCFP Advisory Panel Member,  
(Department for Work & Pensions)

## 'Investigation' Discipline case study

### How to use the PSP to assess your skills in a Discipline

Within the PSP there is a skills tool that breaks down each **Discipline** into **Key Components** and then individual **Elements** of knowledge, skills and experience from trainee to advanced level. The skills tool allows members to self-assess against these Elements. Within the 'Investigation' Discipline (below) there are ten Key Components, with 53 corresponding Elements.



### Elements

- 6.1** Case Progression – Report writing & communications
- 6.2** Case Progression – Evidence files
- 6.3** Case Progression – Disclosure
- 6.4** Case Progression – Operational learning
- 6.5** Case Progression – Law enforcement referral
- 6.6** Case Progression – Evidence presentation

# Types of membership

The GCFP is built around the principle of choice.

At launch, a limited number of organisations will be able to choose which specialists from their organisation they would like to put forward for membership under 'transitional arrangements'. Following the initial onboarding of these organisations, these transitional arrangements will be available more widely.

If your organisation is joining the Profession through transitional arrangements you may become a member either (1) under collective transition, or (2) becoming a member under individual transition.

When the GCFP Board feel the Profession is ready, it will introduce a process for 'new entrants'. This will be available for those with no experience of counter fraud or those who did not join under transitional arrangements. **More information about this route to membership will be published in the future.**

## Transitional phase\* closes

### Collective

Becoming a member under collective transition (i.e. organisations elect teams, or groups to move into the Profession together).

### Individual

Becoming a member under individual transition (i.e. organisations put forward individuals).

### New Entrants

Becoming a member after the transitional period has closed.

### Register of Interest

For those where a formal route into the GCFP is not be available yet, you will be able to register your interest to keep engaged with the counter fraud community.

## What do I do now?

- ✓ Visit our homepage to find out more: [www.gov.uk/government/groups/counter-fraud-standards-and-profession](http://www.gov.uk/government/groups/counter-fraud-standards-and-profession)
- ✓ Visit 'Civil Service Learning' to explore the Professional Standards and Guidance here: [www.civilservicelearning.civilservice.gov.uk/professions/counter-fraud-profession](http://www.civilservicelearning.civilservice.gov.uk/professions/counter-fraud-profession)
- ✓ Have a discussion with your line manager about future routes into the GCFP.
- ✓ Don't work in fraud? Refresh your counter fraud knowledge by re-visiting the counter fraud, bribery and corruption training here: [www.civilservicelearning.civilservice.gov.uk/learning-opportunities/counter-fraud-bribery-and-corruption-all-staff](http://www.civilservicelearning.civilservice.gov.uk/learning-opportunities/counter-fraud-bribery-and-corruption-all-staff)
- ✓ Do you still have questions? Send us an e-mail at: [GCFP@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:GCFP@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)



“The ‘**transitional arrangements**’ were developed to recognise the **existing counter fraud capability across government** within the new GCFP. By offering both ‘individual’ and ‘collective’ transitional arrangements, the GCFP will enable experienced specialists to enter this Profession through a **straightforward, practical assessment process**, while also recognising that many public sector organisations already have mature learning environments to support their specialists in **achieving high counter fraud standards**.”

**Samantha des Forges**  
Head of Fraud Defence,  
Ministry of Defence

# Benefits to organisations

## A single, central and shared body of knowledge

The GCFP will enable organisations to strengthen counter fraud capabilities through cross-organisational skills mapping, knowledge sharing and co-ordinated Learning & Development programmes, based on lessons learnt across the public sector and a structure to develop counter fraud capability.

## Provides transparency for organisations to identify and effectively deploy specialists in the right areas

Counter fraud leads will have a complete view of how counter fraud skill sets are distributed across their organisations, enabling them to be informed when considering their counter fraud response, how they manage resources and how they develop their people.

## Recognition of multiple Professions

Public sector roles are increasingly complex and in many roles it is necessary to draw on a variety of specialist skills and experience. As such, increasingly people will need to be able to develop in multiple specialist areas and professions to deliver their roles effectively. The GCFP is built to enable its members to also be members of other Professions.

## Improved outcomes

The GCFP will help to deliver better quality fraud products, whether investigations, risk assessments or data analytics, through the harnessing of lessons learnt and capability across the public sector through the structure of the Profession.

## Vital public funds will increasingly be spent on core business and not lost to fraud

Improved access to capability in counter fraud will make organisations more effective in protecting public services and fighting economic crime.

“ Serious fraud does not respect organisational boundaries. To have a real impact on tackling serious fraud **we have to work collaboratively** across government and the development of the GCFP will help us do that. The GCFP will also raise the profile of investigation work and **give our investigators the professional recognition they deserve.** ”

**Simon York**  
Director,  
Fraud Investigation Service (HMRC)



# A Profession built through collaboration

The GCFP has been, and will continue to be, built through collaboration. Specialists came together to create it from different organisations across government. They had a vision for a more comprehensive, cohesive and recognised structure in which to develop themselves and their skills, and a passion to make it happen.

This is a new Profession built by experts, for experts. For those who join the Profession, it is their profession, and they have the opportunity to shape its future, and how the UK fights fraud and economic crime.



*One of the great features of the GCFP is that it is a **product of collaboration**. It has been built with the advice and support of a number of organisations; not only from central government but across sectors. What we've come up with is a Profession that offers the counter fraud community choice and empowerment in their futures. Built by experts, for experts.*



**Mark Cheeseman**  
Deputy Director,  
Public Sector Fraud



## Who are the groups involved?

### The Government Counter Fraud Profession Board

The GCFP Board consists of senior Counter Fraud Leads from across government, each representing an organisation that has significantly invested in counter fraud. This Board is responsible for the development, promotion, and oversight of the GCFP and ultimately decides what the Profession looks like, who is able to join the Profession and what process this entails.

### Advisory Panel

The Advisory Panel is a peer-review body consisting of experienced counter fraud specialists from across government. The GCFP Board puts forward candidates for the Advisory Panel based on an individual's knowledge, skills and experience – not their grade. The panel is responsible for designing the membership application processes, reviewing applications and advising the Board on who enters the Profession.

### Cross Sector Advisory Group

An established group of industry leaders, academics and third sector representative, the Cross Sector Advisory Group provides a forum for ongoing consultation, challenge and support for the development of the Profession.

### Practitioners Groups

The Practitioners Groups consist of current counter fraud specialists at operational level who provide ongoing consultation on the evolution of the GCFP from within the public sector.

### Fraud Champions Group

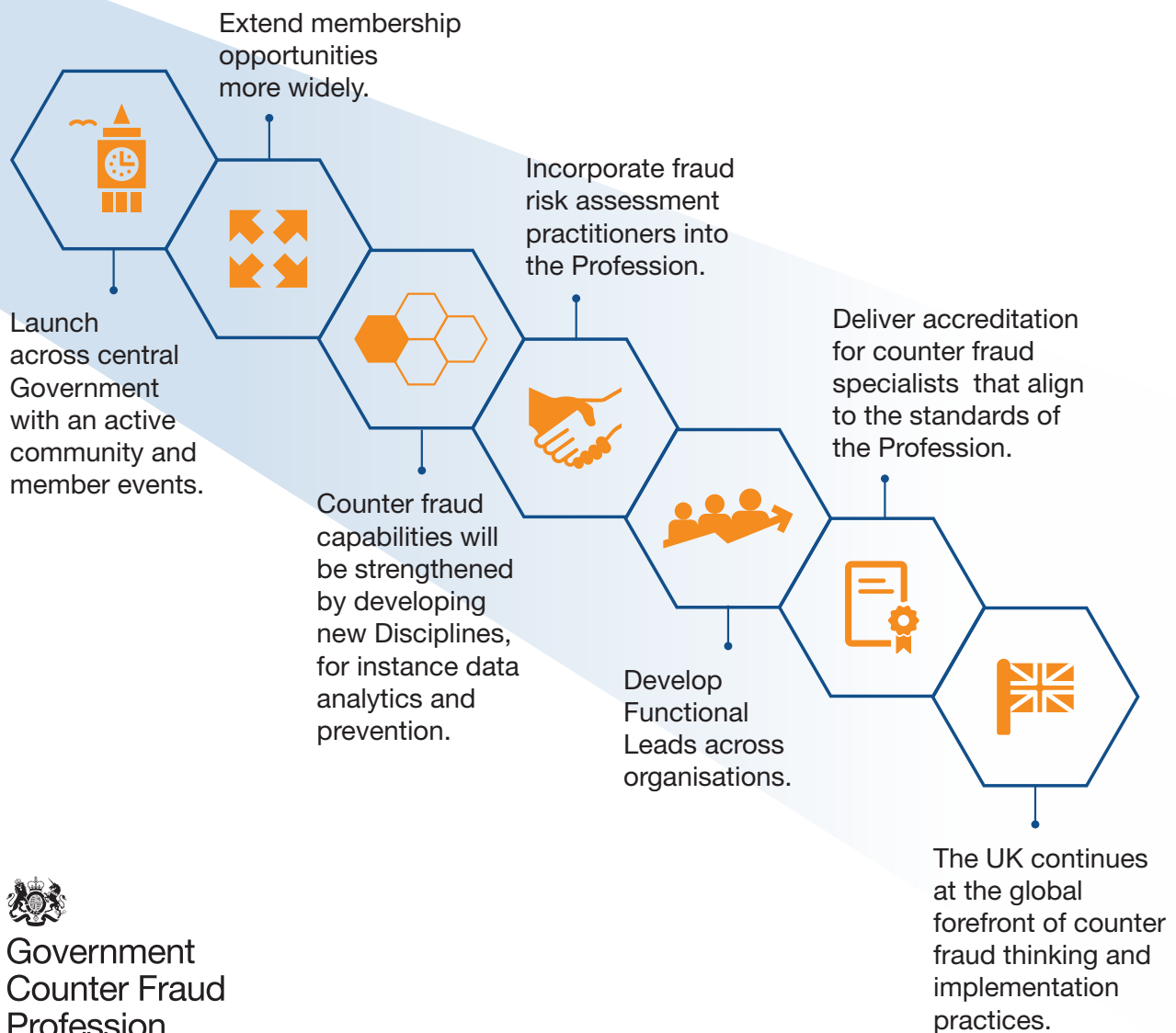
The cross-government Fraud Champions Group is a forum for discussion and knowledge sharing on a range of more general counter fraud activities across central government.

# Vision for the future

The launch of the GCFP is just the beginning. It will pave the way for public sector organisations and the counter fraud community to evolve together.

## The GCFP has ambitious plans for the future.

Over the coming years, the GCFP will evolve, making sure the public sector is ready to fight current and future threats, and reflecting new practitioner demographics and the evolving fraud landscape. The UK's commitment to the professionalisation of central government counter fraud activity has already been recognised as internationally leading by the International Fraud Forum project, with its partners in the Five Eyes Alliance. And it won't stop there: the GCFP will continue to grow, lead and help counter fraud specialists get the best from their careers.



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The Government Counter Fraud Profession  
is coordinated by the Cabinet Office.