

Preface

This report on organised benefit fraud was commissioned in February this year under the terms of reference set out in Chapter 1.

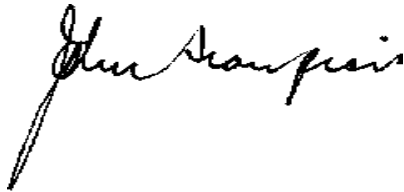
I was asked to lead the review. I assembled a review team to work with me, consisting of Professor Michael Levi, Professor of Criminology at Cardiff University; his research assistant, Peter Wilson MSc; and my colleague Eric Ludlow, to whom I owe particular thanks for his close support and energetic commitment to the work.

The research findings of the review were in the main carried out by Professor Levi and Peter Wilson. I am indebted to them for their skills; and for the effort they expended, which was well beyond the demands of the contract.

I was able to gain the support of a steering group with interests and specialisms in this field. They introduced a balance of interests from local government, the Benefits Agency, universities and the private sector. A full list of all steering group members has been given as an appendix to the report. I am deeply grateful to all the members of the steering group: their commitment, their ideas and their constructive criticism were invaluable to me.

The steering group members helped to guide the work of the review. Although they do not share with me the formal responsibility for the review's conclusions and recommendations, I readily and gratefully acknowledge the help and support they gave to the review team in reaching them.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank the two local government representative bodies, the LGA and COSLA, for their help and enthusiasm throughout this review. Their assistance in organising two useful and productive seminars with local government representatives in London and Edinburgh is particularly appreciated.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Scampion', with a long, sweeping underline.

John Scampion

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Glossary

ABR	Area Benefit Review
ACMG	Active Case Management Group
AD	Area Directorate
APACS	Association for Payment Clearing Services
BA	Benefits Agency
BASIS	Benefits Agency Security Investigation Service
BFI	Benefit Fraud Inspectorate
BFIS	Benefit Fraud Investigation Service ¹
BIA	Benefits Investigation Agency
BID	Benefit Intelligence Directorate
BIS	Benefit Investigation Service ¹
CIFAS	Credit Industry Fraud Avoidance Scheme
COSLA	Convention of Scottish Local Authorities
CSUS	Central Support Unit [Scotland]
DSS	Department of Social Security
FIBS	Fraud Investigation by Sector
FIU	Financial Intelligence Unit
FSD	Fraud Strategy Directorate
HB	Housing Benefit
HEO	Higher Executive Officer
IOP	Instrument of Payment
IS	Income Support
JSA[IB]	Jobseekers Allowance [Income Based]
LA	Local Authority
LAIQG	Local Authority Investigating Officers Group
LBFIS	London Borough Fraud Investigators Group
LGA	Local Government Association
LOFIT	London Organised Fraud Investigation Team
LTAFA	London Team Against Fraud
MI	Multiple Identity
MIDAS	Matching Intelligence and Data Analysis Services
NAFN	National Anti-Fraud Network
NIU	National Intelligence Unit
PATS	Probity and Transformation Service
PINS	Professionalism in Security
SEO	Senior Executive Officer
SLA	Service Level Agreement
SRG	Security Research Group
WBS	Weekly Benefit Savings

¹ *BFIS relates to the organisation in England and Wales, BIS to its Scottish equivalent. We use BFIS throughout the report to refer to both.*