

Committee(s): Economic Crime Board – For information	Date: 6 th July 2018
Police Committee – For information	12 th July 2018
Subject: Joint Fraud Taskforce Update	Public
Report of: Commissioner of Police Pol 61-18	For Information
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Summary

At the meeting of the Police Committee on the 1st March 2018, a Member requested an update on the Joint Fraud Task Force (JFT). The Commissioner gave a brief verbal update at the April Committee but at that time owing to the position with a review of the Taskforce which had commenced in February 2018, it was not possible to give a full update and the Commissioner undertook to provide an update to the July Committee once the review concluded at the end of May 2018.

This paper provides an update on the Joint Fraud Taskforce (JFT) following its launch in February 2016 and Public Accounts Committee scrutiny in December 2017.

An independent review concluded that the JFT has huge potential but certain aspects, including an effective operating model, need strengthening. There is clear support for the JFT from government, industry and law enforcement. The future ambition, objectives and operating model will be adjusted to maximise the potential of the JFT. Recommendations and structures for JFT 2.0 will be finalised by September 2018.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The Joint Fraud Taskforce (JFT) was set up by the Home Secretary in February 2016.

2. The JFT is a partnership between banks, law enforcement and government to deal with fraud and to focus on issues that have been considered too difficult for a single organisation to manage alone.
3. The objectives of the JFT are to:
 - a. protect the public and businesses from financial fraud
 - b. reduce the effects of fraud on victims
 - c. increase prosecution of fraudsters
4. A Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in December 2017 found that establishing the JFT was a positive step, but there needed to be a clear set of objectives for what it planned to do and by when, and the JFT need to be more transparent and partners accountable.
5. The PAC also found that the policing response was inconsistent and made two recommendations directly related to City of London Police:
 - a. The Home Office must prioritise efforts to improve the collection and reporting of data on fraud. It should update us on progress by the end of March 2018, when we also expect to hear how it is improving information sharing between government, industry and law enforcement, and working with Action Fraud to reduce the gap between reported and actual fraud.
 - b. Home Office should, with the City of London Police, establish what more they can do to help all police forces tackle online fraud, including opportunities to identify, develop and share good practice in a more systematic way.
6. An independent review of the JFT was commissioned by the Home Office in February 2018.

Current Position

7. The independent review concluded at the end of May 2018. The review found the JFT had huge potential however it was also agreed that certain aspects needed strengthening.
8. The findings of the review were discussed at the JFT Management Board in June 2018. Board members discussed the overall ambition, including how best to set objectives, the place of the JFT within the wider economic crime reform landscape and how to ensure that the JFT is using its collective good to drive the fraud agenda forward. This included a clear understanding of and commitment to resourcing.
9. The Board agreed the key next steps were to take the review findings and build the next phase of the JFT. The Board agreed a small team would undertake an agile approach, with a focused blitz in July 2018 to work up proposals for JFT 2.0 based on review findings. It was also agreed that work already in progress should not be stopped but might need to be prioritised. A joint government / industry /

law enforcement strategic threat assessment would also be commissioned to help prioritise and set JFT outcomes.

10. Law enforcement (City of London Police), the private sector and government all commitment resources to delivering these next steps.
11. It was agreed that the review team would produce recommendations by the beginning of September 2018. This will be in advance of other key developments in economic crime in the law enforcement landscape including publication of an HMICFRS thematic inspection on fraud and the launch of the multi-agency National Economic Crime Centre hosted by the National Crime Agency.

Public Accounts Committee Recommendations

12. City of London Police is working with the Home Office and other partners on the PAC recommendations from December 2017.
13. To increase reporting, City of London Police is currently:
 - a. running a campaign to educate the public on the importance of reporting (#everyreportmatters)
 - b. working with industry to deliver an API to automate reporting (funded through the National Cyber Security Programme)
14. To identify, develop and share good practice in a more systematic way, City of London Police is currently:
 - a. continuing to deliver its force engagement programme
 - b. developing a refreshed communications plan
 - c. developing a suite of good practice guidance for forces (“key factors for success”) which will be available digitally
 - d. awaiting confirmation of Home Office funding for regional fraud liaison officers in each ROCU

Conclusion

15. There is clear support for the JFT from all partners involved. The future ambition, objectives and operating model are being revisited to maximise the potential of the JFT. Recommendations and structures will be agreed in September 2018. Further updates to your Economic Crime Board and Police Committee will follow.

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