



Fraud Investigations

Unravelling Complex Fraud



Throughout the world, economic crime is on the increase, crossing international borders and permeating every level of society. Its complexity is increasing as the technology around us becomes ever more advanced.

Taking numerous forms, often invisible and largely unnoticed, economic crime can affect individuals and companies in a myriad of different ways, resulting in financial loss and damage to individuals and business reputations.

Fraud Investigations

Organisations respond differently when they fall victim to fraud. Many will pursue immediate prosecution while others will focus on recovering their losses. In either event, securing evidence at an early stage is vital, as it will be essential if you are to achieve a successful prosecution or obtain an asset-freezing order. It can also assist in a negotiated recovery.

As well as gathering the evidence, we can help trace and locate vital financial information and assets which can be used in either criminal prosecution or civil recovery.

We have considerable experience in a wide variety of circumstances, ranging from employee theft of comparatively small sums to major multi-million pound carousel fraud.

Our team is experienced in acting in civil recovery claims on behalf of corporate clients, as well as in assisting investigation bodies such as the Police and the Department for Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform (BERR), for the purposes of prosecution.

Having also acted on many occasions in criminal defence, our experience of appearing on both sides of the fence leaves us well placed to avoid some of the pitfalls that can be encountered at the later stages of recovery or prosecution, when the value of evidence may have been compromised.

As in any business decision, the victim of fraud will be anxious not to compound his losses by wasting money. Our assistance from an early stage can be invaluable in providing focus to the work that is needed, and in delivering value for money input.

Case Examples

SFO Investigation

Our personnel have experience of working for the Serious Fraud Office, where they have acted in a number of multi-million pound international cases relating to, amongst others, advance fee frauds, share ramping, stock market underwriter fraud, fraudulent trading and breaches of UK insolvency and company law. This work invariably involved the preparation and presentation of complex forensic evidence at trial, and exercising Section 2 powers in the obtaining of documentation and interviewing individuals without the right of silence, leading to successful prosecutions and convictions.

Absconder

The managing director of a multi-national's subsidiary in Geneva was obstructing its internal auditors and refusing to explain a number of dubious transactions. We were called in and, without the director's knowledge, discovered that inventory allegedly held by third parties did not exist. The client confronted the director by telephone and he immediately absconded. In his absence, we uncovered a complex, collusive financial fraud involving the director and his accountant and the manipulation of inventory, banking and other accounting records, which the auditors had overlooked and which amounted to \$6m. We persuaded the director to return, despite his suicide threats, and the client made a complete financial recovery.

Directors' Misfeasance

BTG Forensic undertook forensic investigations on behalf of the liquidator of a multi-million pound electronic gaming/software company. Allegations included creditor preference, disposal of assets at undervalue, extraction of funds by use of false invoices, and identifying directors' private expenditure paid for by the company. Our investigation led to funds being recovered.

Company Investigation Branch Enquiries

We have undertaken a number of investigations on behalf of the Company Investigation Branch of the BERR (formerly the DTI) resulting in the winding-up of companies and the prosecution and disqualification of directors.



Offices across the UK (including Channel Islands) and overseas. www.btg-forensic.com

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