

Local Authority Chief Executive
Director of Finance and Benefits
Security Operation Group
Joint LAA / DWP Steering Group
Fraud Investigation Service
HMRC / LAIOG / SLAIG/ WBIG/ IRRV

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Date: 30th April 2012

Dear Colleague,

New powers in the Welfare Reform Act (June 2012) will enable joint investigations between DWP, HMRC and Local Authorities. To support this we announced plans to develop a Single Fraud Investigation Service for implementation in 2013. February this year we updated our intentions through the Fraud and Error Strategy Document published as part of the wider Cabinet office paper on tackling Fraud and Error. In that document we recommitted to the idea of a single investigation, but we were also able to take on board the evolution of that Service as Part of the changing landscape around Universal Credit, Personal Payment plans and Pension payments. Therefore the design now has two stages, the 2013 model to enable us to get to a position to deliver on a **Single Investigation**. Then a 2015 model which allows us to devise and develop a **Single Service** model taking on board the shift from Detect, to both prevent and detect.

Five months ago we published the results of the short consultation on options around staffing the Single Fraud Investigation Service for delivery in 2013- Option 1 where staff remain situated in current locations and under current management. At that time we promised you, that we would, as a cross Government programme,

- Consult and collaborate on options for a high level design of the 2013 Delivery Model and
- Publish the results of that work today.

Attached are a number of documents supporting these promises. What we publish today is very high level and by no means a finished product. It does provide us with a good solid foundation to test through pilots the propositions reached through a large number of workshops involving 550 colleagues from Local Government, DWP and HMRC in



England Scotland and Wales. The nature of the work and the diversity in approaches mean that no one design emerged as an obvious winner. For this reason we shall be piloting and learning through experience and designing with evidence. Therefore while we do not yet have every detail worked out, we have a clear way forward to arrive at that. Inevitably your teams and wider community will have questions. I am therefore also attaching a Q&A brief. We have also set up a dedicated e mail address for comments-

fraudanderrorprogramme.communicationsteam@dp.gov.uk

We would ask that you send these in titled SFIS High Level Business Design by 31 May 2012.

After that date we shall reissue the high level design document taking on board the comments provided, and let you have an updated timeline for the pilots and the detailed design work for stage 1 to get us to the 2013 model.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JO', with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the bottom right.

John Oliver
Senior Responsible Office for Fraud and Error