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Public Bill Committee
Scrutiny Unit, House of Commons
London, SW1A 0AA

28 February 2025

Dear Chair,

Written Evidence to the Public Bill Committee on the Public Authorities (Fraud, Error and Recovery) Bill

I am writing on behalf of the National Economic Crime Centre (NECC) to provide written evidence to the Public Bill Committee regarding the Public Authorities (Fraud, Error and Recovery) Bill.

Hosted within the National Crime Agency (NCA), the NECC works with law enforcement, regulatory bodies, and the private sector to coordinate and enhance the UK's response to serious and organised economic crimes, including fraud. We bring together intelligence, specialist capabilities, and subject matter expertise across government and industry to disrupt criminal networks, recover assets, and improve the UK's resilience against economic crime.

We welcome and support the Bill's provisions, particularly the introduction of an investigative role and powers for the Public Sector Fraud Authority (PSFA). These measures should increase the capacity to tackle fraud against public authorities and contribute to the wider effort to reduce fraud, which remains the most commonly experienced crime by individuals in England and Wales and most likely the whole of the UK. However, it must be acknowledged that there is potential for increased demand on the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and other prosecutors from increased volumes of investigations in the system, and equally, the pipeline of skilled investigators across the system is finite. Whilst these are risks, they are acceptable and proportionate to the gains the Bill offer.

The NECC and PSFA work together where our portfolios overlap to strengthen the national response to fraud, and we anticipate that the Bill's implementation could provide further opportunities for partnership working.

It is also important that legislation is not overly restrictive, given the evolving nature of fraud threats, although we are not best placed to comment on this aspect of the



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Bill. A degree of flexibility in legislative measures will help ensure an effective response as criminal methodologies continue to develop.

We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the Committee's scrutiny of the Bill and would be happy to engage further as required.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Sharp
Deputy Director, Fraud
National Economic Crime Centre

Protecting the public from serious and organised crime

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