**How we use SARs video full transcript**

Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs): A unique dataset for the UK’s response to money laundering, terrorist finance and other serious and organised crimes

Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) alert law enforcement to potential instances of money laundering and terrorist financing.

They provide information and intelligence that would otherwise not be visible.

They are a vital source of intelligence to disrupting all types of crime.

What happens to SARs that are submitted by the regulated sector?

I really appreciate the investment of time and resources made by reporters to comply with their Anti Money Laundering obligations and submit SARs to the UKFIU, so it is understandable that the regulated sector wants to know exactly how we use them.

Every working day, the UKFIU receives approximately 3000 SARs, which means that in the last financial year over 900,000 SARs were received. Every single one of these SARs, as soon as it arrives in the UKFIU, is triaged through our systems to identify key words and glossary codes. This enables us to identify links to the highest priority threats and crime types, and prioritise how the SARs will be actioned.

The SARs that require immediate action to protect the public, these are immediately reviewed by UKFIU officers and sent to the appropriate Law Enforcement agency for further investigation.

How are SARs used by the UKFIU and our law enforcement partners?

SARs contain key information that assists Law Enforcement in their investigations and ultimately helps disrupt serious crime.

Serious crime investigations can be hugely complex but serious organised crime is always acquisitive, so financial intelligence is absolutely vital. SARs identify suspicious transactions and the individuals and companies linked to them. They help us understand money laundering methodologies, identify emerging threats and pinpoint criminal assets. SARs directly enable law enforcement to recover the proceeds of crime.

Why are SARs so important?

SARs are a vital source of intelligence that help detect and prevent money laundering, terrorist finance and all other types of crime.

Over 2021/22…

SARs have helped to identify victims that require safeguarding, arrest criminals, and seize criminal funds and assets.

16,548 SARs identified by UKFIU relating to potentially vulnerable people were fast-tracked to law enforcement, supporting victims that require safeguarding.

SAR intelligence led to the recovery of over £40m from suspected criminals.

Over £300m assets were restrained in 2021/22 as a result of DAML\* SAR Intelligence

\*Defence Against Money Laundering

SARs provide useful intelligence that disrupt all types of serious and organised crime.

Let’s look at an example where SAR intelligence has supported law enforcement beyond money laundering…

Last year, a SAR search identified a suspect of strange rape…

A stranger rape occurred in the early hours of the morning and the only information that the respective police force had was a phone number and that the suspect managed a car wash.

As the suspect was believed to manage a car wash, the police force recognised there was a potential that there could have been a SAR submitted due to money laundering suspicions.

A SAR search found that the phone number linked to an individual connected with a car wash.

The SAR allowed the police force to quickly identify a suspect who was not known on any police system. This illustrates how SARs are often a unique source of intelligence.

Across the country and globally, SARs have helped law enforcement agencies prevent and disrupt serious and organised crime.

These are just some examples…

“A SAR is key to the understanding and investigation of a variety of crime types and provides a crucial insight and snapshot of financial activity that would otherwise be unknown to law enforcement” Police Scotland

“The SARs system is of great benefit especially in terms of identifying those people that are engaged in money laundering and allowing us to instigate an investigation.” Police Service of Northern Ireland

“We have found that new addresses/nominals are often visible in the SAR intelligence before they come to the attention of police via other routes.” Northumbria Police

“The level of information (in SARs) received wasn’t on any other system, so it was of great benefit to the officer.” North Wales Police

“28 Safeguarding visits were made by Essex Fraud Officers following concerns raised by fast-track/weekly SARs.

[As a result of SAR disseminations] victims have been found in distress over events and have welcomed safeguarding advice.” Essex Police

“SARs continue to provide useful nuggets of information, assisting in case-building against London’s most High-Harm offenders.” Metropolitan Police Service

SARs are unique, important and invaluable datasets in the fight against money laundering. They detect and disrupt serious and organised crime.