

# News story: Launch of consultation on Criminal Finances Act Codes of Practice

Law enforcement agencies will soon be able to seize works of art and precious stones and metals that are being used to launder criminal funds.

Measures in the Criminal Finances Act mean officers will also be able to seize betting receipts, casino tokens and gaming vouchers in the same way that they currently confiscate cash.

The act, which received Royal Assent on 27 April 2017, gives law enforcement agencies, and partners, enhanced capabilities and greater powers to recover the proceeds of crime, tackle money laundering, tax evasion and corruption, and combat the financing of terrorism.

The act will help make the UK an even more hostile place for the corrupt and the criminal through measures including unexplained wealth orders, which require someone who is expected of being involved in serious criminality to explain the origins of their wealth if it appears disproportionate to their income.

Security Minister Ben Wallace said:

Criminals don't just deal in cash, they move or hide their money in the form of expensive pieces of art, buying and selling valuable precious metal and stones or even purchasing rare stamps to mask their amassed wealth.

It is vital that law enforcement agencies can take these high value, easily transportable assets from them so that they cannot use them to fund their criminal lifestyles.

This sends a clear message to criminals that we will not stand by and watch them use the UK to launder their dirty money or fund terrorism.

The changes will be supported by new Codes of Practice for law enforcement officers, which have been published today (Monday 31 July) for consultation. Following the 4-week consultation the Codes will be subject to further Parliamentary scrutiny.

The Codes being consulted on also include:

- updated guidance on exercising powers to search and seize and detain property
- updated guidance on the exercise of investigation powers in the Proceeds

of Crime Act 2002 (POCA) to include new and extended powers relating to unexplained wealth orders and disclosure orders

- updated guidance for prosecutors on investigation powers, including who can apply for orders, time limits in conducting searches and the seizure of materials
- updated guidance on the exercise of powers in the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 (ATCSA) to include new and extended powers relating to administratively forfeit terrorist cash, and new civil recovery powers to seize, detain and forfeit terrorist assets and terrorist money held in bank and building society accounts

Interested organisations and members of the public are now invited to take part in the 4-week consultation in respect of the Codes of Practice providing guidance on the exercise of the powers. The consultation will close on Friday 25 August.

You can read the consultation documents on the [Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 and Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001: codes of practice](#) page.

Other measures included in the Criminal Finances Act and which are expected to be phased in from Autumn 2017 include:

- the creation of Unexplained Wealth Orders requiring those suspected of corruption or other serious crime to explain the sources of their wealth, helping to facilitate the recovery of illicit wealth and stopping criminals using the UK as a safe haven for the proceeds of international corruption
- new criminal offences for corporations who fail to stop their staff facilitating tax evasion, this will hold corporations to account for their employees' actions, ensuring robust global compliance regimes
- extending the existing civil recovery regime in POCA to allow for the recovery of the proceeds of gross human rights abuses or violations overseas

The powers brought in by the Criminal Finances Act would only be used by law enforcement agencies where necessary and proportionate to do so. The act ensures they are targeted at those who pose the greatest threat, subject to a set of stringent safeguards.

The Home Office is working with key stakeholders, including other government departments, law enforcement agencies and the regulated sector, to support their efforts to prepare for the commencement of the act's measures.

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**[News story: 100 years on, Defence](#)**

# Secretary and members of the Armed Forces attend Passchendaele commemorations

Defence Secretary Sir Michael Fallon joined The Prince of Wales, The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, The King and Queen of Belgians, Prime Minister Theresa May, and other dignitaries at a commemoration at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Tyne Cot Cemetery.

The Tyne Cot cemetery is situated on the former battlefields of the Ypres Salient, within sight of the town of Ypres and holds 12,000 graves with 35,000 names on the memorial wall. The service reflected the story and experiences of those who fought in the Third Battle of Ypres and was watched by descendants and members of the public.

The battle began 100 years ago today on 31 July 1917 and was a major engagement in the First World War, claiming the lives of around 275,000 British and Commonwealth military personnel and around 200,000 German lives.

The Chief of the Defence Staff, Joint Force Commander and heads of the Royal Navy, British Army and Royal Air Force also attended the ceremony. A Guard of Honour was provided by the 1st Battalion Irish Guards. Musical support was provided by the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines Plymouth, the Band of the Welsh Guards and the Central Band of the RAF.

The Band of the Welsh Guards and the Central Band of the RAF at the Tyne Cot Cemetery

Defence Secretary Sir Michael Fallon said:

These services provide us with the time to reflect on the sacrifice not just of the thousands of British and Commonwealth troops who gave their lives, but of the men on all sides who did not return home. This was a battle which touched communities across Europe and it is a privilege to be here in Belgium to stand as friends with the representatives of all the countries who took part in the Battle – friends who continue to be strong allies.

Earlier in the day Defence Secretary, Sir Michael Fallon also met with Belgian Defence Minister Vandepuut to discuss security and defence cooperation between the two countries. Their meeting highlighted the enduring ties between the UK and Belgium, particularly the UK's commitment to NATO.

The Defence Secretary later toured the Esterline factory in Kortrijk, which specialises in display screens for use in military aircraft.

In the afternoon, a National Service of Remembrance took place at the Welsh

Memorial in Flanders organised by the Welsh Government's First World War Programming Committee. This Service of Remembrance commemorated 100-years since the 38th (Welsh) Division attacked the German held frontline on the Pilckem Ridge at the beginning of the Third Battle of Ypres.

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## [News story: VMD's Accredited Internet Retailer Scheme \(AIRS\) 5th Anniversary](#)

The VMD's Accredited Internet Retailer Scheme (AIRS) has now been running for 5 years since its launch on 25 May 2012.

AIRS was developed in response to the general public's concerns about buying veterinary medicines over the internet. The aim of the scheme is to provide assurance to the public and professional keepers of animals, that by purchasing their veterinary medicines from an accredited internet retailer they are:

- buying the medicines from a reputable, UK-based retailer
- at less risk of buying unauthorised, inappropriate or ineffective medicines for their animals
- confident that the retailer meets the requirements of the Scheme and the law

There are now 41 accredited websites operated by 32 businesses and further applications are in the pipeline. Companies whose websites have been accredited are diverse and include some well-known organisations.

An [up to date list of accredited retailers](#) is available.

We have worked closely with retailers to explain the assessment criteria and what changes they need to make to their websites for compliance with both AIRS and the Veterinary Medicines Regulations. Whilst doing this, the VMD has built some very good working relationships with retailers and has gained a better understanding about how internet businesses operate. We have used this information to develop our guidance and to help applicants understand how to meet the accreditation standards.

With the aims of the scheme in mind, we reviewed its requirements in 2016 and made a number of changes, in particular:

- Accreditation is now focussed on the retail supply of authorised veterinary medicines (classes POM-V, POM-VPS and NFA-VPS) only
- Non-medicinal products are no longer included in the assessment. Instead, applicants have to declare that they do not make medicinal claims for non-medicinal products on their websites
- Applicants have to acknowledge that continued accreditation is

contingent on a commitment to promptly correct all non-compliances brought to their attention

We believe that these changes have simplified the accreditation process whilst maintaining the appropriate controls on the sale of medicines by internet retailers.

AIRS is open to all UK-based registered veterinary practice premises, registered pharmacies and approved SQP retailers that supply POM-V, POM-VPS and NFA-VPS veterinary medicines online. Membership is voluntary and its free.

Retailers who meet the accreditation criteria display the special 'VMD Accredited Retailer' logo with their unique accreditation number [image of logo]

If you wish to apply to become an AIRS member, [application forms and other guidance is available](#)

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## [Detailed guide: Gosport Oil Fuel Depot redevelopment](#)

*Updated:* Updated the body text on request from the Oil and Pipelines Agency to reflect the latest changes.

### **Oil Fuel Depots**

The [Oil & Pipelines Agency \(OPA\)](#) is responsible for [6 Naval Oil Fuel Depots](#) in the UK. It works on behalf of the Secretary of State for Defence. It is a statutory public corporation sponsored by the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

### **Gosport Oil Fuel Depot**

The site comprises 2 site offices, the main site area that holds 17 storage tanks and the jetty area, which allows delivery to and from ships.

The site is on Forton Road, Gosport, Hampshire PO12 4TH.

The types of fuel stored at Gosport are kerosene (also known as aviation fuel, jet fuel or AVCAT) and diesel.

### **Site redevelopment**

A multi-million pound redevelopment project to replace the tanks and upgrade

other buildings which, subject to planning consent will commence in 2018.

The fuel tanks are over 100 years old and are approaching their end of service life. The project will ensure that the depot will be fully equipped to meet the future requirements of the Royal Navy's new Queen Elizabeth Class carriers.

## **Work to be carried out**

The redevelopment of the site will be phased in order for business to continue.

The existing tanks will be replaced with tanks of a similar size or smaller in some instances, although there will be fewer of them. The tanks will be cut down individually and replaced and phased in rows of 2.

The existing offices will also be replaced and there will be an improved site entrance and improved security provision around the site. A new gate house will be built with upgraded security provision around the site and the site offices will be relocated.

## **Project timescales**

Work began in 2018.

The project is expected to finish by spring 2021.

## **Noise and disruption management**

We will work with Gosport Borough Council to make every effort to keep potential disruption to a minimum. A construction traffic management plan is in place and is aimed to minimise any potential impact to residents.

When the tanks are removed there will be some construction noise and dust. We will be using contractors who are members of the Considerate Constructors Scheme, full and appropriate mitigation measures will be put in place to limit any impact on our neighbours and local community. In addition, noise and dust levels will be monitored on site to ensure that they fall within acceptable limits set by the local planning authority as part of the planning application.

## **Working hours**

Access to the site is permitted between 07:30 and 18:30 Monday to Friday but actual working hours are restricted to 8am to 6pm.

Site access is permitted on Saturday between 07:30 and 13:30 but actual working hours are restricted to 8 am to 1pm.

## Traffic management

There will be movement of materials and staff to and from the site throughout the construction period and a construction traffic management plan is in place to cover facilitate this. We are also working with the council, local communities and individuals to minimise road congestion where possible particularly during peak times.

The contractors' offsite car parking is located within the vicinity of the Gosport OFD.

## Site security

As an operational COMAH site, naval asset and construction site, we have a legal and moral obligation to ensure safety and security is maintained at all times.

## Community Relations Team

We have a dedicated project team who are happy to answer any questions you might have. We will also be issuing project updates to our neighbours and any other interested parties.

You can contact the OPA Community Relations Team by:

By telephone: 08000 499 734

By email: [GosportOFD@communitycomms.co.uk](mailto:GosportOFD@communitycomms.co.uk)

## Related information

- [OPA Oil Fuel Depots](#)
- [Oil fuel depot public information notice](#)

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## [News story: Digital Outcomes and Specialists 1 expires on 2 September 2017](#)

If you're a buyer and you published requirements on the framework before 24 February 2017, you need to award the contract to the successful supplier before 2 September.

You'll need to [use the Digital Outcomes and Specialists 1 call-off contract](#).

You're not affected by the expiry of Digital Outcomes and Specialists 1 if

you published requirements on the Digital Marketplace before 24 February and have signed the contract with the successful supplier.

If you published your requirements on the Digital Marketplace on or after 24 February, you will continue to award your contracts using the [Digital Outcomes and Specialists 2 call-off contract](#).

Email [enquiries@digitalmarketplace.service.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@digitalmarketplace.service.gov.uk) if you have any questions.