



Strategic Areas of Focus

Corporate or commercial fraud that risks harm to New Zealand's significant trade related industries



New Zealand's economy is built on its significant trade industries. Commercial fraud that impacts New Zealand's key trade imports and exports, such as tourism and primary industries, carries risk to our international reputation and economic productivity. It also risks undermining confidence in the reliability of our systems and institutions. The SFO is focussed on preventing and detecting fraud and corruption in these systems, to uphold our international reputation as a safe place to do business.

Misappropriation of targeted Government funding (including emergency recovery or rebuild)



Targeted funding responds to a specific need. Fraud on these funds further exacerbates the issue it was intended to address and undermines Government efforts. In emergency situations, the need to deliver funding urgently can mean reliance on high trust, quick distribution mechanisms, which are more vulnerable to exploitation.

Fraud enabled by emerging technology



Recent advances in technology like artificial intelligence and cryptocurrency mean that fraud can be committed in new ways, and on an ever-grander scale. These tools can challenge traditional investigative methods and quickly develop into trends if agencies are not primed to act. Focusing on emerging technology will ensure SFO can intervene early to disrupt emerging technological trends in financial crime and prevent significant future harm.

Frauds perpetrated or facilitated by trusted professionals or professional enablers



There is a strong need for deterrence in respect of gatekeepers and to preserve the integrity of our professional institutions.

Foreign bribery or foreign interference allegations



Foreign interference and bribery of foreign public officials is hugely damaging to societies and the SFO has a role to play in ensuring we protect New Zealand's interests in the face of such threats, as well as ensuring our own institutions operate internationally with high levels of integrity.

Fraud that leverages an affinity to a particular community



Communities and groups play an important role in New Zealand society. Fraud committed against our communities can be especially destabilising to our social fabric, and damaging to trust in community leadership and institutions. It is important that those who target these communities or groups are held to account, particularly where those sectors may need extra protection.

Corruption of public officials that carries risk for health and safety



While corruption cases are a perennial priority, we are particularly focused on offences that could threaten the health and safety of New Zealanders and those who visit our country. This is particularly relevant to public procurement in sectors where substandard outcomes have the potential to cause injury and possibly death, including construction, roading and healthcare.

