

FAQs – Corruption Risk Assessment Tool

About the tool

Who is the tool intended for?

The Corruption Risk Assessment tool is being designed for use by public sector organisations; however, it will also be available and useful for those working in the private sector. Those using the tool will not need any specialist knowledge although an understanding of their organisation's systems and processes will be valuable for completion.

Why is the tool being created?

During the SFO-led Anti-Corruption Taskforce Pilot, which was carried out in 2025 it was identified that public sector organisations do not currently have a consistent, structured and accessible way to identify and understand corruption and insider threat risks specific to their context.

The tool is being designed to address this gap and to help support organisations to identify corruption and insider threat risks within their own operating environment.

What are the benefits of using the tool?

The tool will help organisations to identify and prioritise the corruption and insider threat risks most relevant to their context. It will build organisational capability in detecting and responding to corruption risks, supporting more targeted action; whether improving controls, strengthening training, or directing resources to higher-risk areas.

The tool is intended to complement existing risk management arrangements and support organisations to better identify and prioritise corruption risks relevant to their operating environment.

Those who use the tool will also come to recognise the corruption and insider threat risks that are facing our public sector.

When will the tool be available?

The tool is planned to be published in June 2027. Following that updates may be made as needed, in response to user feedback. Updated versions will remain publicly available.

Using the Corruption Risk Assessment tool

How do I apply to use it?

No application or permission will be required to use the tool. It will be published on the Serious Fraud Office website and freely available for any organisation to download and complete.

Do I need special software to use it?

The tool will be developed in Microsoft Excel. No additional software is required beyond standard Microsoft Office access.

Where will I get the data needed to complete the tool?

The tool will ask a series of questions that users should be able to answer based on their knowledge of their organisation's internal operations and environment. Depending on their role, they may need to consult colleagues in other business units with relevant knowledge.

Can I get help to complete the tool?

The tool will be designed to be completed independently and will be supported by clear guidance throughout. If you have questions while completing it, you can contact the Counter Fraud Centre team at counterfraud@sfo.govt.nz.

Results from the tool

What should I do with the results?

The tool produces a result to indicate risk priority for each risk type assessed. Organisations are responsible for deciding how to respond, using their existing governance, risk, and integrity frameworks. For risk types rated as high, the tool suggests short, directional next step. Organisations may also contact the Counter Fraud Centre to discuss their results or potential next actions.

Will the Serious Fraud Office review or receive completed assessments?

No. The Serious Fraud Office will not review completed assessments and does not automatically receive any information entered into the tool. All data remains with the organisation using the tool unless it is shared voluntarily. Organisations may choose to contact the Counter Fraud Centre to discuss their results or potential next actions.

Will using the tool trigger an investigation or enforcement action?

No. The tool is a capability-building resource designed to help organisations identify and understand corruption and insider threat risk in their operating environment. Completing it will not prevent fraud or corruption, but the results can be used to help inform preventative actions that organisations can undertake.

Using the tool itself will not trigger any investigation, enforcement action, or reporting obligation as it deals with risk on a thematic rather than specific level. Organisations are encouraged to share results with the SFO Counter Fraud Centre voluntarily, doing so will help us to build a sector-wide view of corruption risk. This is entirely optional. Any data inputted into the tool remains with the organisation unless shared voluntarily.

Use of the tool may prompt the organisation to a closer look at various processes or procedures, which in turn may surface information that triggers the agency's own internal investigation or reporting obligations.

Does the tool replace fraud, risk, or integrity assessments?

No. The tool is designed to complement existing fraud, risk, and integrity frameworks. It focuses specifically on corruption and insider threat risk identification, rather than control effectiveness or compliance. It is intended to sit alongside, and feed into, an organisation's existing frameworks.

Involvement in the design of the tool

Will the tool be developed in consultation with agencies?

Yes. The tool will be developed with input from public sector and civil society organisations. This consultation will help ensure that the tool is practical, relevant, and usable across different organisational contexts.

What is the purpose of the consultation process?

The consultation process is intended to:

- Test the tool's usability and clarity
- Ensure the risks included are relevant and meaningful
- Confirm the tool complements existing governance, risk, and integrity frameworks

Feedback provided will be used to refine the tool throughout the design process and before it is finalised and published.

Who are you consulting with?

Consultation will include engagement with public sector and civil society organisations. Should you want to be part of the consultation process please contact consultation@sfo.govt.nz and include “Corruption Risk Assessment – Consultation” in the email subject line.

Does participation in consultation mean agencies endorse the tool?

No. Participation in consultation does not imply endorsement of the tool or responsibility for its content. Feedback provided during consultation will help us to ensure that it is relevant and practical to the end user. Organisations remain responsible for deciding whether and how the tool is used once it is publicly available.

Can organisations still provide feedback if they missed the consultation sessions?

Yes. Feedback is welcome during the development phase and will continue to be welcomed after publication. The tool is intended to evolve over time in response to user experience, feedback and emerging risks.

Support and enquiries

Where can I get more information about this project?

We will be continuing to publish further information about the tool on the SFO website as it is developed.

If you would like to know more about the New Zealand Government’s role in the Open Government Partnership or the Fifth National Action Plan you can read more about them [here](#)

[New Zealand National Action Plan](#)

[Open Government Partnership](#)

Who can I contact for more information?

If you have any questions or would like to know more about the tool, please feel free to reach out to the Counter Fraud Centre team at counterfraud@sfo.govt.nz

Copyright

As the tool will be developed by the Serious Fraud Office in the course of our official functions, it will be subject to Crown copyright under the Copyright Act 1994. For more information refer to the copyright statement on our website.