Five principles of fraud control in disaster management

These principles can guide development of effective control plans in disaster relief and recovery scenarios. By understanding the principles, it can help public sector agencies to implement fraud control practices and fraud prevention approaches more effectively.

1 Accept that there is an inherently high risk of fraud, and that it is likely to happen.

2 Integrate fraud control resources (personnel) into the policy and process design to build awareness of fraud risks.

3 The organisation and fraud control should work together to implement low-friction countermeasures to prevent fraud risk where possible.

4 Carry out targeted post-event assurance to look for fraud, ensuring access to fraud investigation resource.

5 Be mindful of the shift from emergency payments into long term services and revisit the control framework – especially where large sums are invested.

In strengthening our fraud risk controls we still need to be mindful that the fundamental purpose of disaster context – getting payments and services to those in need is a priority. Therefore, it will be necessary to achieve a balance.

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