

## Long-Term Insights Briefing: Public Consultation Document

*Staying ahead of the curve – Responding to emerging trends in detecting fraud and corruption in New Zealand*

9 August 2024

### **Background**

The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) is the lead law enforcement agency charged with investigating and prosecuting serious or complex financial crime including bribery and corruption. The SFO also leads fraud prevention efforts in New Zealand's public sector and works to strengthen the sector's resilience to fraud and corruption through its Counter Fraud Centre - Tauārai Hara Tāware.

We are seeking public feedback on the proposed topic for our next Long-Term Insights Briefing (Briefing).

The Public Service Act 2020 requires agencies publish a Briefing at least once every three years. These Briefings are prepared independently of Ministers, and are designed to:

- Provide information about long term trends, risks and opportunities that may affect New Zealand.
- Provide impartial analysis including policy options for the matters raised in the Briefing.

In producing a Briefing, agencies are required to consult with the public, ensuring that the topic explores a problem affecting New Zealanders and contains useful information to inform public opinion, academic research, and potential policy initiatives.

### **Why this topic?**

Fraud, both global and domestic has increased significantly since 2020 and shows no sign of reducing to pre-pandemic levels. This is true for New Zealand, where it has become the nation's most commonly experienced crime type.

Fraud and corruption impact public trust in key institutions from government agencies to banks and decreases a nation's reputation as a safe place to engage in business.

Rapid technological change across fields like artificial intelligence has created new opportunities for fraudsters, but also provide advanced counter measures to thwart them.

### **What issues will we explore?**

This paper will take stock of how we detect fraud and corruption, assessing international best practice and possible futures to help ensure New Zealand stays one step ahead of those who mean us harm.

## Questions – share your feedback

We are seeking your insights on the following:

1. *Will the proposed topic and scope provide insight into an issue that affects New Zealand?*
2. *Do you think the issues we have identified to explore are right for this topic? Are there any other areas of focus you think we should consider?*

## How to make a submission

Your submission can be made via email to – [consultation@sfo.govt.nz](mailto:consultation@sfo.govt.nz)

## Next steps

- Your feedback will help inform research and analysis for our draft Briefing.
- In early 2025, we will undertake a second round of consultation on the draft Briefing with stakeholders. If you are interested in being involved in this second stage consultation, please let us know.
- We aim to present the final Long-term Insights Briefing to the House of Representatives in mid-2025.
- Our final Briefing will help Government agencies respond to the challenges of detecting fraud and corruption. The Briefing will also be available as a public resource and evidence base.

## Submissions are official information

Submissions you make become official information, and the content of submissions can be asked for under the *Official Information Act 1982* (OIA). Under the OIA, we must make information available unless there is good reason for withholding it.