



Fraud Barometer 2022

A snapshot of fraud in the UK



February 2023

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KPMG LLP
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Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of the annual KPMG Fraud Barometer report, which provides an analysis of the data for 2022.

The bi-annual KPMG Fraud Barometer releases identify the latest fraud trends and patterns affecting the UK economy which helps us remain alert to new threats and respond to fraud risks in an appropriate and proactive manner – and so we hope you find this report insightful, interesting and useful.

We also encourage you to contact us if you have thoughts or questions about the trends identified in the report or the wider issues raised by fraud.

The KPMG Fraud Barometer is the longest running survey of its kind in the UK with data spanning over 30 years. It considers reported major fraud cases being heard in the UK's Crown Courts, where charges are in excess of £100k.

The KPMG Fraud Barometer team is headed up nationally by Roy Waligora (based in London) and supported by the following regional leads:

- **Annette Barker**
(Head of Forensic in the UK)
- **Damien Margetson**
(North West)
- **Sara Smith**
(North East)
- **Julie Bruce**
(Midlands)
- **Kathryn Wasteney**
(East)
- **Steven Wadley**
(Wales and South West)
- **Damian Byrne**
(South East)

Details of the national KPMG Fraud Barometer team can be found at the back of this report.



“In 2022, we saw the total value of fraud in the UK return to pre-pandemic levels as a few high value cases boosted the numbers. This comes as professional criminals have continued to attempt to line their pockets with high value fraud against financial institutions and their customers.”

Roy Waligora

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Table of contents

The National Picture	04
The Regional Picture	08
The Historical View (data trends)	18
Further Resources	23
Fraud Barometer National Team	23



The national picture

‘2022 sees £1.12bn of fraud reaching UK Courts, an increase of 151% compared to £444.7m in 2021’

The total value of reported alleged fraud cases £100k or above heard in UK courts increased by 151% from £444.7m in 2021 to £1.12bn in 2022, according to data released in KPMG UK’s latest Fraud Barometer.

The figure for 2022 is similar to pre-pandemic values which saw a total value of £1.1bn for alleged fraud cases heard in 2019.

Figures from KPMG UK’s Fraud Barometer, found that despite the increase in total value of reported fraud cases heard in 2022, the volume of cases fell by 27%. A total of 219 alleged fraud cases reached the courts in 2022, compared to 298 in 2021.

While volume of alleged fraud £100k or above decreased and total value increased, the value was largely driven by five cases with a value of £50m or above which were heard in UK courts in 2022. These cases amounted to a total value of £648m, more than half the total value of all the fraud cases heard. This is a stark contrast to 2021 which saw no reported cases over the value of £50m.

The Fraud Barometer also noted that a number of other reported cases, involving significant sums, were reportedly settled so do not appear within the figures but reinforce the trend that the value of alleged fraud is significantly up on prior periods.

Fraud cases against financial institutions halved in 2022, with only 16 cases being heard compared to 32 in 2021. Despite this, the value of fraud committed against financial institutions in 2022 increased dramatically by 2204% to £609.2m.

Key highlights include:

- Total value of alleged fraud over £100k reaching UK Courts in 2022 was £1.12bn, an increase of 151% compared to £444.7m in 2021
- Volume of cases has however fallen by 27% from 298 in 2021 to 219 in 2022

“In 2022, UK courts only heard one less money laundering case than the prior year, but the total value of money laundering cases increased by 694% from £68.2m in 2021 to £541.7m. This was bolstered by three cases with a value of £100m or above.”

Roy Waligora

Head of Investigations
Partner, KPMG Forensic



Thematic trends

The Fraud Barometer data reflected that embezzlement continues to be a persistent problem and remained the most prevalent type of fraud case by volume, followed by investment and advance fee fraud. Embezzlement-related cases decreased by volume from 51 in 2021 to 36 in 2022 but increased by 37% from £28.5m in 2021 to £38.9m in 2022. Investment fraud cases increased by both volume and value, increasing from 13 cases in 2021 with a combined value of £12.5m, to 19 cases in 2022 with a combined value of £181.8m. Advance fee fraud cases also increased by both volume and value, from 9 cases with a total value of £5.6m in 2021 to 19 cases with a total value of almost £16m in 2022.

The most common fraud type by value was money laundering. Despite a slight decrease in the volume of money laundering cases from 14 to 13, value increased significantly from £68.2m in 2021 to £541.7m in 2022. The significant increase was largely driven by three cases which had a fraud value of £100m or more each.

Last year we noted that there was significant attention on prosecuting of potential fraud cases involving Covid loan schemes as there were widely reported suspicions of major fraud of billions of pounds. Whilst investigations by HMRC and other government agencies will continue, we did not see major value cases related to Covid loan schemes in 2022 in the Fraud Barometer data.

It is also apparent that whilst UK Courts have recovered from pre-pandemic levels, the effective prosecution of economic crime cases remains under pressure as fraud cases are often complex making prosecutions time consuming and expensive to run. There have been widely reported staffing challenges in the criminal justice system that may continue to affect the volumes of cases processed. Against this backdrop of resource constraints, the UK is likely to struggle to demonstrate that it is effectively addressing perceptions of fraud and economic crime being on the rise.



What's on the horizon?

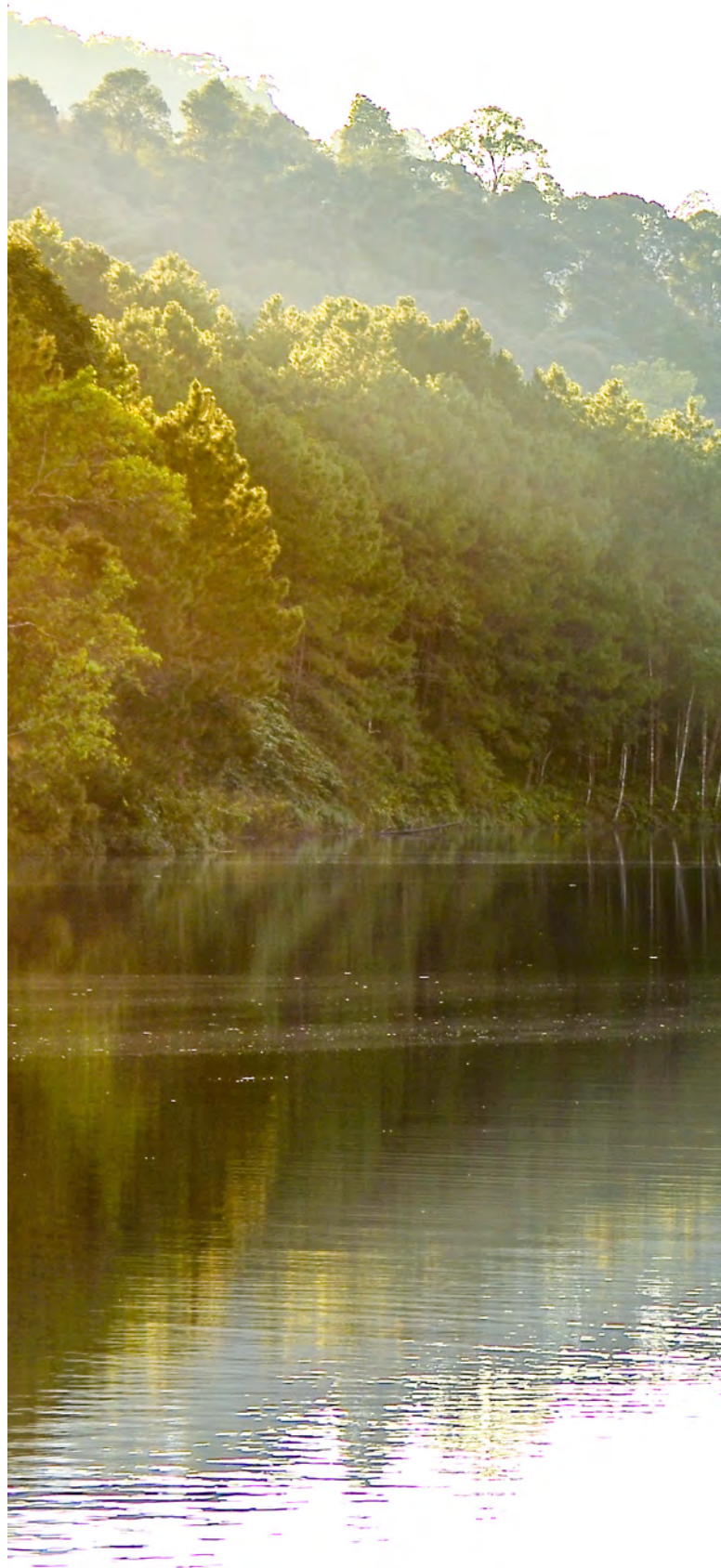
Fraud risk in the UK is generally perceived as high and encouragingly is more recognised as a serious issue by many corporates in terms of the external threats they face from organised criminals as well as the internal threat from management and staff. In addition, there is greater regulatory focus on UK boardrooms to proactively manage fraud.

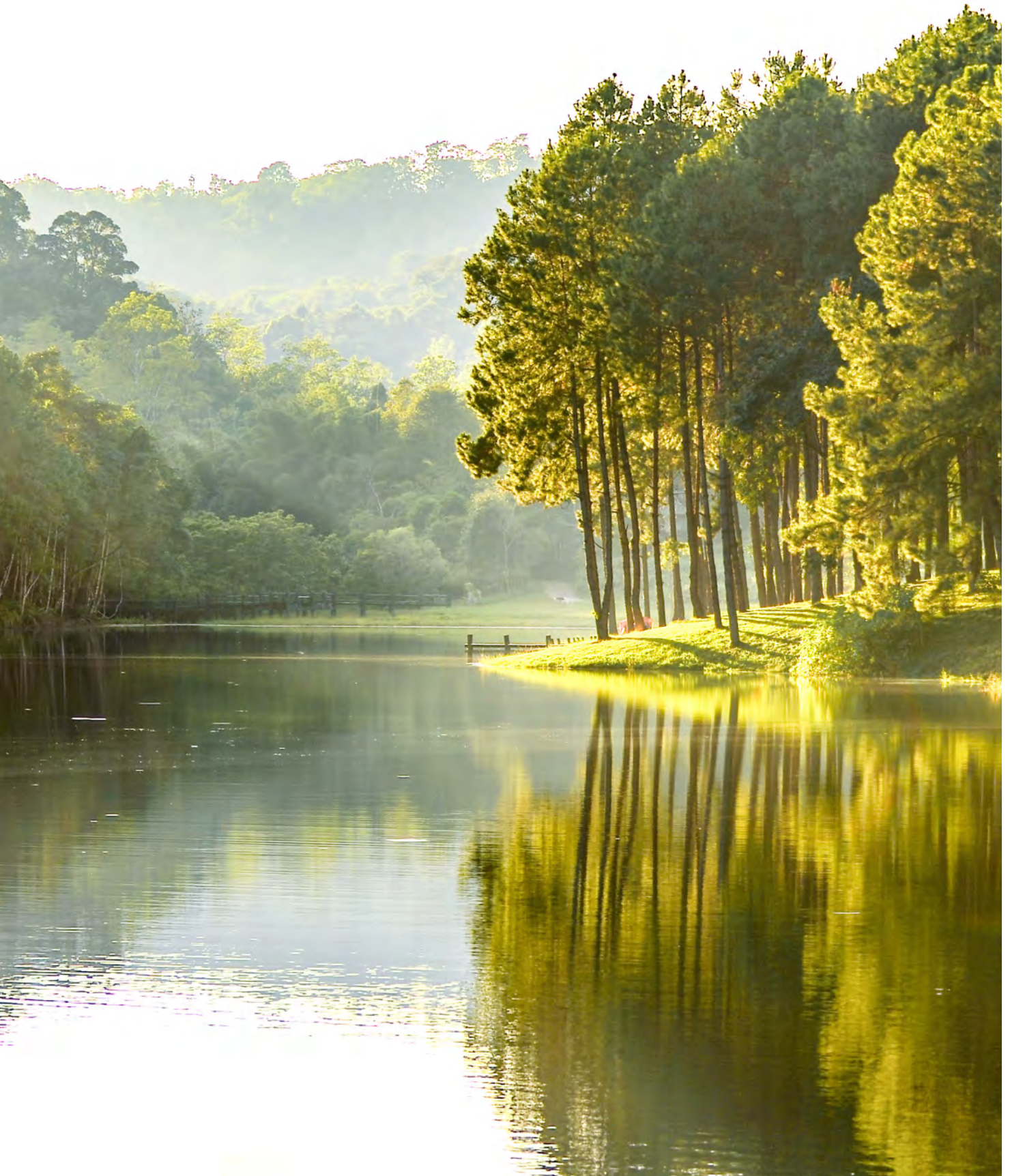
These two themes are tying up neatly with upcoming regulatory changes being debated. These include a corporate reporting requirement from government by the department formerly known as the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) for qualifying entities (broadly companies with more than 750 staff and/or more than £750 million in revenues) to have a Fraud Statement in annual reports for financial years ending after 1 January 2024. The Fraud Statement will require companies to set out how they are detecting and preventing material fraud and will need to state the level of assurance they have obtained on their statement (although we note that obtaining external audit assurance on the Fraud Statement is not required). Interestingly, the UK government is also considering amending its Economic Crime Bill to include an offence of "failure to prevent fraud, false accounting or money laundering" similar to provisions around the failure to prevent bribery and corruption which reinforce the importance of undertakings articulated in the fraud statement.

"Upcoming regulatory changes for qualifying companies needing to have a Fraud Statement should be seen as a positive development to improve corporate efforts to deter fraud from having an effective whistle-blowing mechanism through to investigations and monitoring of fraud risk."

Roy Waligora

Head of Investigations
Partner, KPMG Forensic





Scotland

Scottish fraud skyrockets during 2022

“The dramatic increase of fraud cases coming to light in Scotland is worrying, particularly with many cases involving rogue employees abusing their positions of trust to steal money from their employers, clients and other partners.”

Businesses must do all they can to maintain adequate controls to prevent serious fraud from being committed. Without the right safeguards in place, businesses across Scotland will unfortunately continue to be victims of crime and incur the reputational and financial damage which comes with it.”

The number of reported alleged fraud cases over £100k being heard in Scottish courts rose significantly last year, according to KPMG UK’s latest bi-annual Fraud Barometer.

A total of 24 cases totalling £17.4m reached Scottish courts in 2022, skyrocketing from 2021 when 16 cases worth £5.9m came to light, a value increase of 194%.

Commercial businesses were the victim of five cases of fraud in Scotland with a combined value of £1.3m. Four of these cases were instances of embezzlement fraud worth a combined total of £604k. By both volume and value, the general public were the victim of the most cases with 11 cases in 2022 compared to 3 in 2021. The total value of fraud against the general public also increased to £10.3m, up from £1m in 2021.

Notable case in Scotland includes:



A 40-year-old woman was charged with five fraud offences totalling £238.5k, including scamming an 85-year old pensioner by pretending to be in a relationship with him and submitting fraudulent loan and vehicle finance applications on his behalf.



A 38-year-old woman has pleaded guilty to a fraudulent cheque scam with a large bank after she deposited five cheques totalling £1.5m without having sufficient funds in her account.



A 37-year old businessman has been imprisoned for 33 months for carrying out a £736k gift card scam after exploiting a ‘secret loophole’ in the system.



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North West

North West fraud cases fell in 2022, with commercial businesses and Government still the region's most impacted

The volume of North West fraud cases over £100k heard in Courts in 2022 was down 18%, from 34 to 28 year-on-year, according to the latest KPMG Fraud Barometer.

The overall value of these cases also fell significantly by 71% from £83.9m to £24.1m, the survey found.

"It's encouraging to see a sizeable drop in both the volume and value of North West fraud cases in 2022. However, corporate fraud continued to rear its ugly head, with rogue employees abusing their positions of trust to steal money from their employers, clients and other partners. Despite the fall in related cases year-on-year, it's vital that the region's business leaders are taking the urgent action necessary to ensure they have the safeguards in place that can detect and prevent these crimes."



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As with the previous year, the victim group that suffered the most cases of alleged fraud across the region were commercial businesses, with seven cases in 2022, although this did mark a fall from 12 cases in 2021. Government was the joint most common victim by volume in 2022, as they were also the victim of seven cases, down from eight cases in 2021. Embezzlement, which includes theft from company or client accounts, was the most common type of North West fraud case, accounting for the largest share of fraud value (33%).

Notable cases in the North West includes:



A 49-year-old accountant stole more than £6.7m from a family run business in Liverpool. The accountant transferred large amounts of money from the company into their own account and claimed the transactions were loans from the company director.



A 46-year-old grandmother ran a Liverpool accounting services company and acted as an unauthorised tax agent, submitting fraudulent repayment claims to HMRC for her customers in order to "enrich herself". She secured £1.2m for 150 clients.



A 58-year-old man from Oldham set up several companies, and installed energy-efficient home improvements in order to submit fraudulent VAT repayment claims. Invoices were falsified and altered to claim a total of £593k.

North East

North East fraud cases fell in 2022, with the general public being the region's most impacted

"While it's good to see both the volume and value of North East fraud cases fall slightly over the last 12 months, the general public remain a prime target for culprits as the victims of two-thirds of all cases across the region.

As rising energy bills and inflation continue to bite, this trend will likely persist well into 2023, with fraudsters looking for every and any opportunity to strike. Consumers and businesses alike need to stay on high alert and ensure protective measures are in place to help them avoid paying the price."

The volume of North East fraud cases over £100k heard in Courts in 2022 was down slightly, from 13 to 12 year-on-year, according to the latest KPMG Fraud Barometer.

The overall value of these cases also fell, by 25% from £5.3m to £4m, the survey found.

The victim group that suffered the most cases of alleged fraud across the region was the general public, with eight cases in 2022 worth £3.2m. The victims of the other cases within the region were Government and commercial businesses who were the victim of two cases each, with values of £453k and £333k respectively.



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Notable cases in the North East includes:



A Durham-based travel agent was charged with 18 counts of fraud and money laundering amounting to more than £1.6m relating to loans, investments, and holiday sales to customers.



In order to facilitate his gambling addiction, a 25-year-old estate agent from Northumberland made 266 fraudulent transactions into his own account, totalling more than £195k.



A 40-year-old South Tyneside woman was found guilty of fraud with a value of £103k. Despite honestly claiming for benefits between 2008 and 2012, after her circumstances changed, she was no longer entitled to housing benefit, council tax benefit, disability living allowance and income tax support, which she claimed for a further three years.

Yorkshire

Yorkshire fraud cases fell, but overall value soared, in 2022

The volume of Yorkshire fraud cases over £100k heard in Courts in 2022 was down from 19 to 15 year-on-year, but the overall value of these cases rose exponentially, from £10.7m to £274.1m, according to the latest KPMG Fraud Barometer.

Such a significant rise in the value of cases was down to a £266m money laundering trial heard at Leeds Crown Court.

The victim group that suffered the most cases of fraud across the region was government, with six cases in 2022 worth £5.2m. Members of the general public were the second most common victim type by volume, with three cases worth a combined value of £937k.

The number of alleged fraud cases conducted by professional criminals in the region fell from eight to five, a decrease of 38%.

“The major money laundering case in Leeds might have taken the spotlight and somewhat skewed the combined value of Yorkshire fraud cases last year, but this does not detract from the fact there were also other high-value cases and that even much lower value cases are continuing to have a cumulative impact.

The region’s individuals and businesses alike must not let their guards down as, with rising energy bills and inflation continuing to bite, fraudsters will be looking for every and any opportunity to strike in 2023. We all need to stay on high alert and ensure protective measures are in place to help avoid paying the price.”

Notable cases in Yorkshire includes:



Eight defendants were on trial for money laundering £266m through the bank account of a Bradford-based gold dealer. A photograph was captured of the defendants allegedly counting this money.



A 51-year-old man from Grimsby set up a bogus healthcare business to gain investments of £400k from victims.



The directors of a Hull-based construction installation company were charged with fraudulent tax evasion and VAT payments totalling £3.5m between 2012 and 2018.



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Midlands

Fraudsters targeting higher value assets in the Midlands amidst economic challenges

As the economy continues to face challenges, the total value of alleged fraud cases heard in Crown Courts across the Midlands in 2022 rose to £143.6m across 31 cases, compared with £59m across 46 cases for the same period in 2021.

KPMG UK's latest Fraud Barometer, which records cases over £100k heard in UK courts, found that the value of losses increased significantly, highlighting

"Although the number of cases heard in Midlands Crown Courts decreased, the threat of fraud is still evident.

Fraudsters are finding new opportunities and ways of getting ill-gotten gains. Financial institutions that handle high volumes of money will have to tighten up on protective measures and ensure that proper due diligence is done across all new clients, and that staff are trained to spot any suspicious cases."



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that fraudsters are targeting higher value targets. The alleged fraud with the highest value recorded in the Midlands was a £100m money laundering case, a direct correlation to the rise of organised criminal rings.

Members of the general public continue to be the most common victim type by volume with 11 cases worth a combined value of £2.6m. Commercial businesses were the second most common victim type by volume, with nine cases worth a combined value of £3.2m. By value, Government was the highest victim with alleged frauds of £101.7m across six cases. The Government has seen a steady number of fraudulent cases as criminals seek to take advantage of various loopholes in tax systems and asylum benefits. Professional criminals perpetrated the most cases of fraud across the Midlands with 16 cases worth a combined value of £129m in 2022.

Notable cases in the Midlands includes:



A Director pleaded guilty to investing most of the money from three pension schemes into his own business. The 3 schemes were left with a shortfall of £10m.



57-year-old garage boss admitted 8 charges of fraud by false representation over scamming victims into buying cars which did not exist and swindled £500k from customers after tricking them into a sham car selling scheme.



Employee took over £1.4m from company through falsifying invoices to fund gambling addiction. The employee was found guilty and sentenced to 4 years and 8 months in prison.

East

Professional criminals drive rise in alleged Fraud across the East of England in 2022

The East of England saw a significant increase of £27.9m in the value of alleged fraud cases heard in regional courts during 2022, from £4.0m in 2021 to £31.9m in 2022.

“Despite the number of alleged fraud cases heard in the Region’s courts remaining relatively low, fraud risk continues to be high due to factors such as the cost of living crisis and the economic uncertainty that we are currently experiencing.

The £30m case heard in the region’s courts during 2022 highlights how significant economic crime can be. With commercial businesses continuing to fall victim to both internal and external fraudsters, we would advise management to assess their organisation’s anti-fraud defences and, where necessary, invest in controls and processes responsive to fraud risk. This may seem difficult at a time when organisations are under pressure to manage and reduce costs but failing to do so may prove even more costly.”



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The increase in value is attributable to a case with a value of £30m involving money laundering and conspiracy to import drugs by an organised crime gang. In total, nine alleged fraud cases were brought to courts across the region in 2022 compared with six in 2021.

By both case value and volume, professional criminals were the most common perpetrators of fraud being involved in three cases amounting to £30.2m in 2022. This is a shift from 2021 when by case value, individuals in management roles were the most common perpetrators of fraud. There has also been a shift in the age of the alleged fraudsters. Whilst the youngest perpetrator of fraud in 2021 was 37, two of the cases in 2022 involved perpetrators aged 26 or less. Men continue to allegedly be involved in the majority of fraud cases in the region (78% - 7 out of 9 cases)

The most common group of victims by volume of cases remains commercial businesses, claiming losses amounting to £1.3m across four cases in 2022. However, financial institutions were the highest victim type by value in the region and allegedly lost £30m in 2022 compared to £330k in 2021.

Notable cases in the East includes:



A former Suffolk farmer who was found guilty of defrauding creditors out of over £765k through participating in a fraudulent business that purchased goods on credit without the ability or intent to pay suppliers.



A man who was jailed for over three years for exploiting his position as treasurer of a rugby society and director of his employer’s company to embezzle nearly £180k from the two organisations to fund his gambling addiction.



A hacker who was jailed for 18 months after illegally accessing the cloud-based accounts of top artists to steal their unreleased music, which he sold for a total estimated £131k.

Wales

Welsh courts see a notable decline in value of fraud cases despite national increase

There has been a decline in the value and volume of alleged fraud cases over £100k heard in the courts across Wales, from 16 cases with a combined value of £7.9m in 2021 to 10 cases with a combined value of £3.7m in 2022. The decrease in value is partly attributable to only one of the cases in 2022 having a value equal to or above £1m compared to three cases in 2021.

“Whilst the overall decline in fraud cases heard in the Welsh courts in 2022 may appear positive, individuals and organisations remain at a high risk of falling victim to fraudsters. The current cost of living crisis combined with the adverse economic outlook into 2023 contribute to an environment where fraud can and does readily occur. The decline observed in the region for 2022 may be attributable to factors such as the increasing backlog of cases waiting to be heard in the UK’s courts and the relatively low rates of prosecution for fraud offences.

The Fraud Barometer data suggests that fraud in Wales continues to evolve with both businesses and members of the general public being impacted by fraudsters in the region. Businesses in particular should look to re-assess their current defences against fraud and, where necessary, act swiftly to protect themselves.”



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By volume, the majority of alleged fraud cases heard in the Welsh courts continue to be perpetrated by professional criminals, with six such cases having a combined value of £1.7m in 2022.

There has been a sharp fall in alleged frauds committed by individuals in management roles, which accounted for four of the cases in 2021 but only one case in 2022. By contrast, the volume of cases allegedly involving management for the nation as a whole in 2022 (58 cases) remained relatively consistent with the volume in 2021 (66 cases).

Female perpetrators were allegedly involved in 61% of the fraud cases by value in 2022 up from 23% in 2021. This is slightly lower than the average for the UK in 2022 of 30%.

As observed for the UK overall, the general public remain the most common victims by volume of the alleged fraud cases heard in the Welsh courts in 2022, with total losses allegedly amounting to £1.3m across five cases. The number of frauds allegedly committed against commercial businesses decreased slightly from three cases in 2021 to two cases in 2022, but the value of these frauds increased almost three-fold from £396k in 2021 to £1.6m in 2022.

Notable cases in Wales includes:



A finance manager described as “cold and calculating” who pleaded guilty to defrauding her employer of over £1.3m across a nine-year period to fund expensive holidays, the purchase of cars, home renovations and a gambling addiction.



A town council clerk who pleaded guilty to stealing over £238k from her employer over a five-year period by writing over 120 fraudulent cheques. The woman abused the trust that she had gained from working as a council employee over nearly two decades.



A woman pleaded guilty to a £120k fraud through collusion with at least 150 people during their exams across a two-year period. The woman told police that she had been tempted into fraud by the amount of money she could make.

South West

South West region sees a notable decline in value of fraud cases despite national increase

The number and value of alleged fraud cases over £100k reaching the South West's courts decreased significantly from 31 cases totalling £14.2m in 2021 to 16 cases totalling £8.9m in 2022.

"Whilst the South West has seen a reduction in the number and total value of alleged fraud cases heard in its courts during 2022, this should not be taken as a sign that the level of fraud risk faced by individuals and organisations has reduced. The cost of living crisis has increased the financial pressure felt by individuals and organisations alike and the prevalence of fraud identified and brought to Court will likely increase in 2023."

The regional Fraud Barometer data highlights that organisations continue to face internal as well as external fraud risks. It is sometimes those individuals in positions of trust that commit fraud and in difficult times such as these, organisations should assess and invest in their anti-fraud processes and safeguarding measures as necessary."



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The decrease in the total value of fraud cases heard in the region's courts during 2022 is a marked contrast to what has been observed for the UK as a whole.

The largest group of suspected perpetrators of the alleged fraud cases changed from professional criminals, representing 14 cases with a combined value of £7.7m in 2021, to individuals in management positions, representing six cases with a combined value of £4.0m in 2022. Across the 16 cases heard in South West's courts, 14 involved a male perpetrator. Members of the general public continue to suffer the highest losses from fraud, losing an alleged £3.7m to fraudsters across nine cases during 2022. Fraud suffered by government organisations fell from eight cases with a combined alleged value of £4.1m in 2021 to one case with a value of £106k in 2022.

Notable cases in the South West includes:



A professional golfer has been jailed for five years after being convicted of defrauding the golf club where he worked of £109k, HMRC of £105k and a charity of £11k. The individual exploited the trust that he had been given over his twenty years working at the club.



A bookkeeper, who was previously found guilty of defrauding her elderly stepfather, has been jailed for almost four years after pleading guilty to defrauding her brother out of £521k over a 13-year period that left his business in financial trouble.



An internet marketing consultant admitted to defrauding customers out of £549k in what was described by the judge as a "sophisticated fraud" involving false claims that he was providing them with advertising services.

South East

Value of alleged fraud cases heard in South East's courts in 2022 hits over £21m

The value of alleged fraud cases over £100k heard in South East's courts in 2022 rose slightly to £21.6m from £21.3m in 2021.

However, by volume the number of alleged fraud cases heard in the region's courts fell by 54%, from

"Whilst the number of alleged fraud cases heard in the South East's courts dropped in 2022, the value of those alleged fraud cases remains relatively consistent with those heard during 2021, suggesting that larger and potentially more complex cases were heard in the region's courts over the past year. As the backlog of cases waiting to be heard in the UK's courts grew during 2022 we may see an increase in the number of alleged fraud cases heard in the region's courts in 2023.

Our data shows that professional criminals continue to be active in the region and the increase in value of fraud allegedly perpetrated by private individuals indicates that threats continue to evolve, so we would advise individuals and organisations to be alert to fraud. The cost of failing to do so may be significant."



Damian Byrne

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37 cases in 2021 to 17 cases in 2022. An alleged fraud case with a value of £10m in 2022 contributed to the movement, in contrast the largest case in 2021 was £5m.

Continuing the trend observed in previous years and consistent with the national trend in 2022, by volume of alleged fraud cases, professional criminals were the most common class of fraudster being allegedly responsible for nine cases with a combined value of £7.9m. However, by value, private individuals were the most common class of fraudster being allegedly responsible for two cases with a combined value of £10.7m. In a marked change from 2021, there was a significant drop in the number of fraud cases allegedly perpetrated by individuals in management roles and employees, from 18 cases with a combined value of £14.3m in 2021 to five cases with a combined value of £2.6m in 2022.

Members of the general public remain the group most targeted by fraudsters by value and were joint most targeted by volume, with five cases worth £13.5m heard in the region's courts during 2022. Government organisations were also the victim of five cases in 2022. The value of alleged fraud against government organisations increased from £1.2m in 2021 across six cases, to £4.4m in 2022 across five cases. Alleged fraud against commercial businesses fell from nine cases with a combined value of £5.4m in 2021 to four cases with a combined value of £2.2m in 2022.

Notable cases in the South East includes:



An accounts clerk who was jailed for over three years for defrauding her employer of over £675k by activities including duplicating invoices and changing bank account details described by police as an "extraordinary" betrayal of trust.



An IT Director who was jailed for over four years for defrauding his employer of £202k through authorising his own expenses, submitting fake invoices and inappropriate use of the company credit card.



A scammer who was jailed for three years after targeting vulnerable individuals and convinced them to give him more than £200k for investments that were never made, to fund his gambling addiction.

London

Dramatic increase in value of alleged fraud reaching London courts in 2022

The value of alleged fraud cases over £100k heard in London's courts increased by 150%, from £225.9m in 2021 to £564.5m in 2022.

"Despite a fall in the number of alleged fraud cases heard in London's courts in 2022, the fact that the value of those cases heard in 2022 has more than doubled compared to 2021 indicates that fraudsters, in particular professional criminals, may be undertaking larger and potentially more complex fraud against businesses, investors and the general public."

As London is a significant centre for finance in Europe, it is unsurprising that professional criminals are targeting individuals and organisations in the capital. The significant increase in the value of cases involving individuals in a management role should be taken as a warning for organisations to not ignore internal fraud risks and related controls. Fraudsters are continually looking for weaknesses in fraud prevention processes to exploit, so we encourage organisations to assess their fraud risk and resilience."



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Two cases in 2022 having a value above £100m contributed to the increase, in contrast the largest case in 2021 had a value of £34m. In volume terms, there was a decrease of 27%, from 66 cases in 2021 to 48 cases in 2022.

Based on the alleged fraud cases heard in the region's courts, professional criminals remain the most common perpetrators of fraud, with the group allegedly responsible for fraud in 23 cases with a combined value of £252.7m. There was a marked increase in the value of cases allegedly perpetrated by individuals in management roles, from 11 cases with a combined value of £12.1m in 2021 to 15 cases with a combined value of £293.1m in 2022. In contrast the number of cases allegedly perpetrated by employees decreased from 13 cases totalling £38.8m in 2021 to three cases totalling £537k in 2022.

Of the 48 alleged fraud cases heard in the region's courts in 2022, the general public were the most targeted victim group in 12 cases with a combined value of nearly £98.1m. There were significant increases in the value of alleged fraud suffered by financial institutions and investors, with the two groups allegedly losing £284.7m and £126.5m, respectively. However, the value of alleged fraud suffered by government organisations fell from £120m in 2021 to £1.5m in 2022

Notable cases in London includes:



The directors of a collapsed steel trading firm have been charged with fraud after allegedly falsifying documents and creating fake trades to allegedly defraud five trade finance banks out of around £128m. The former CEO has pleaded guilty to fraudulent trading.



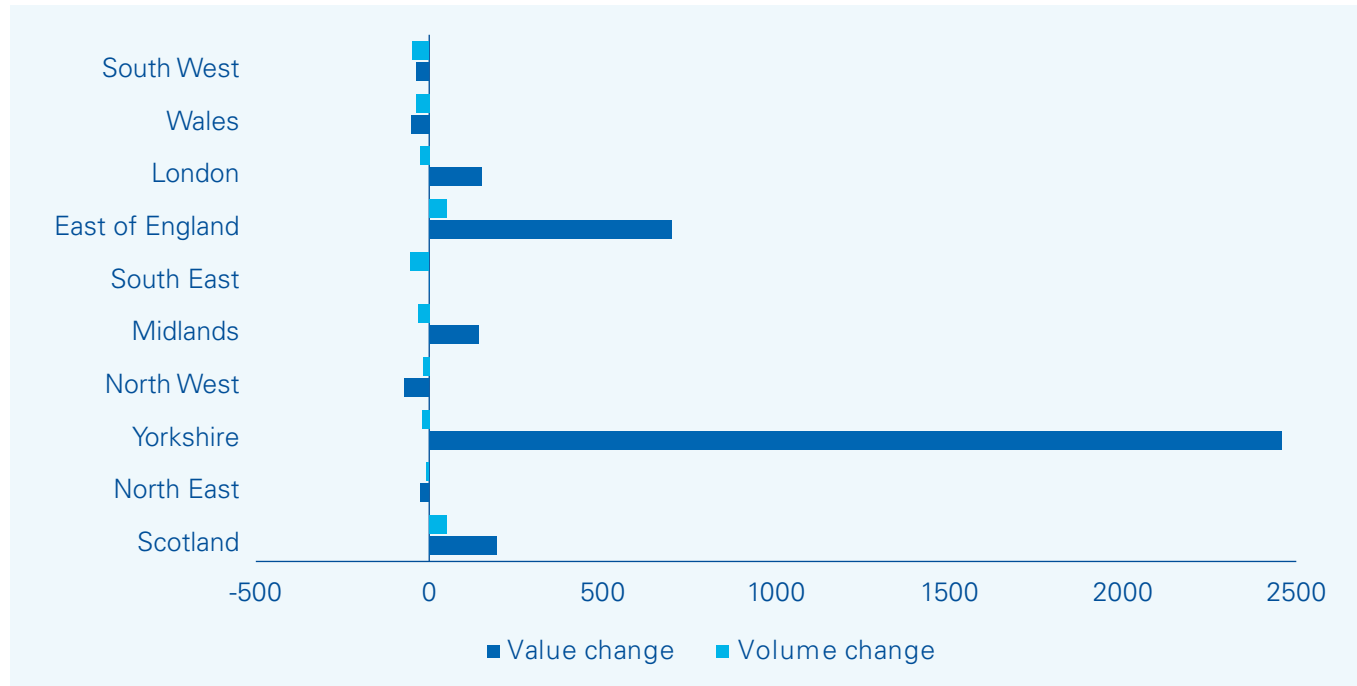
A former solicitor who has been jailed for 12 years for defrauding his client of around £13m. The judge described the man's behaviour that included inappropriately reporting his client to the National Crime Agency as "rank dishonesty".



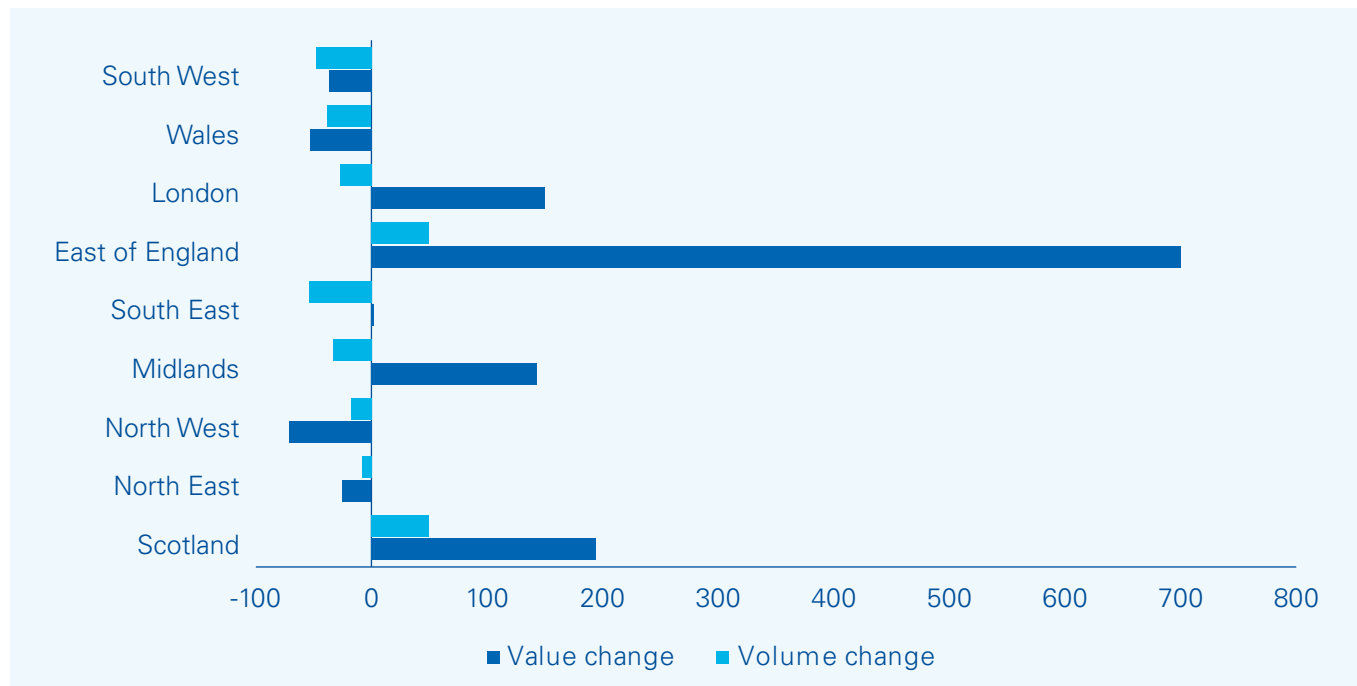
A former church official who was jailed for five years after defrauding the Church of England of over £5m. The man is understood to have abused the trust placed in him by stealing funds under his control to finance an expensive lifestyle and a gambling addiction.

The historical view

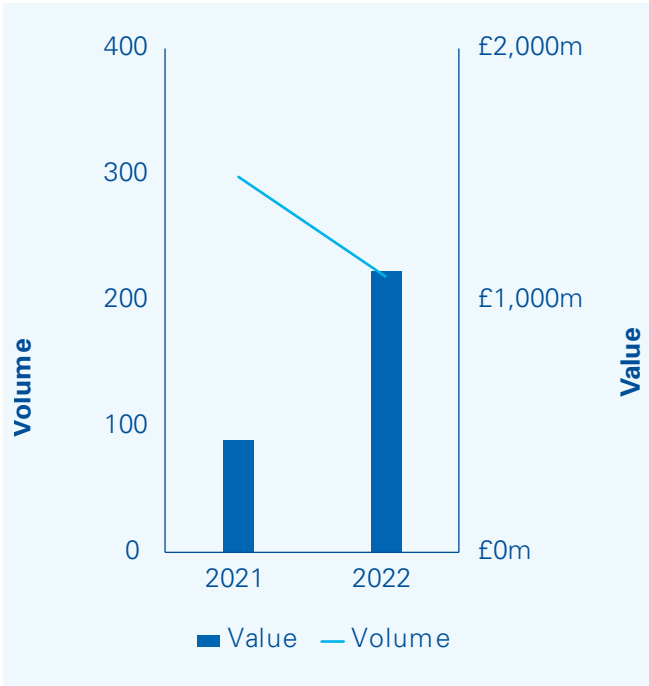
Change in volume and value of cases by geographic region (2022 versus 2021)



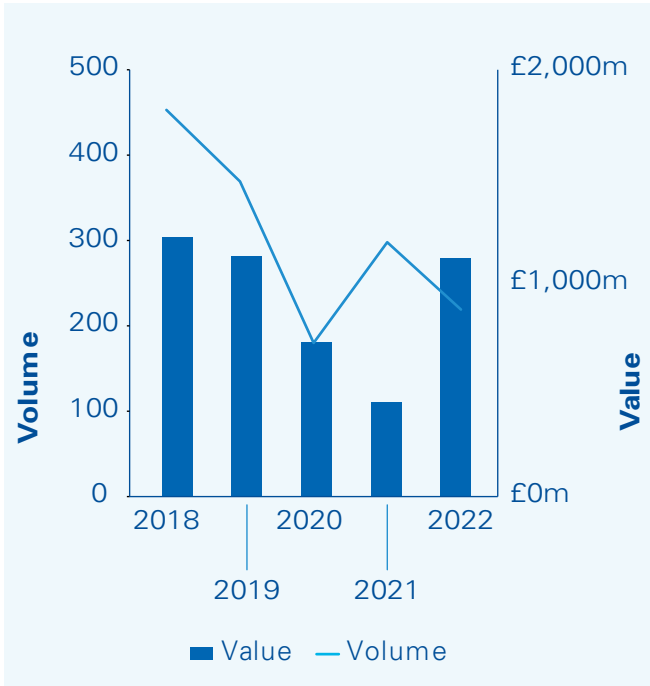
Change in volume and value of cases by geographic region, excluding Yorkshire (2022 versus 2021)



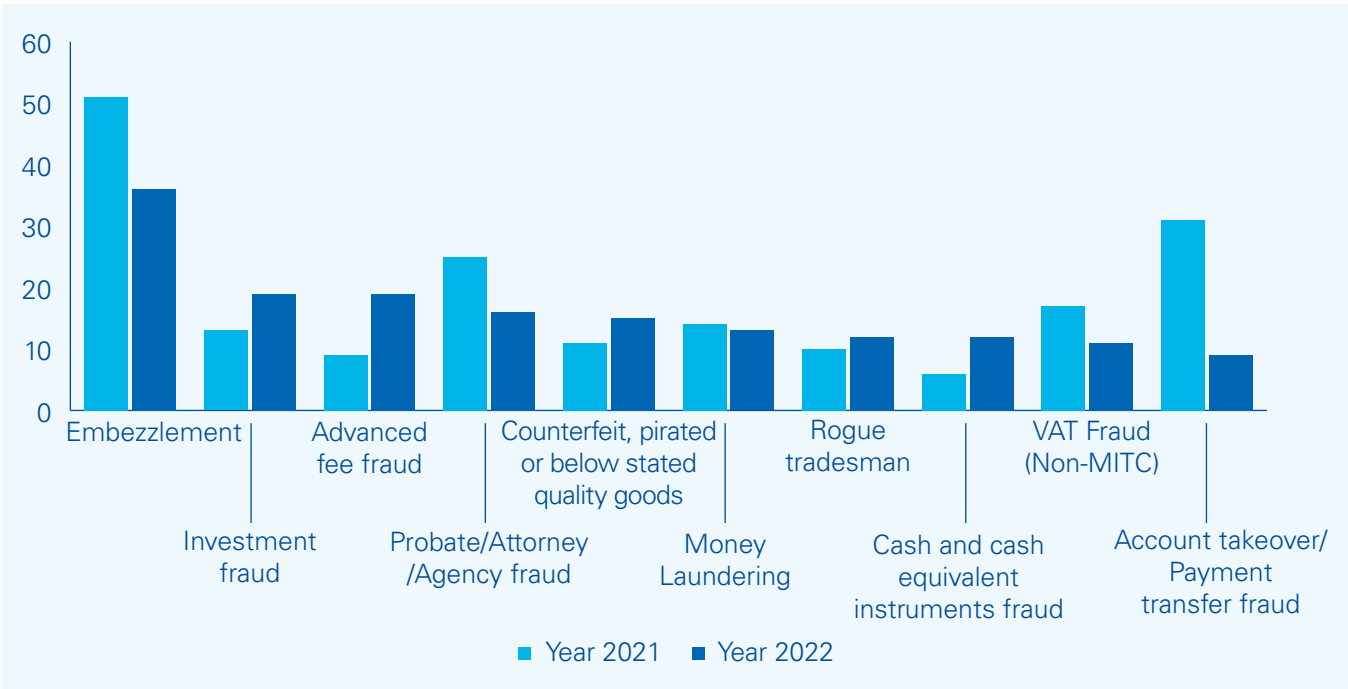
Change in total volume and value of cases recorded (2022 versus 2021)



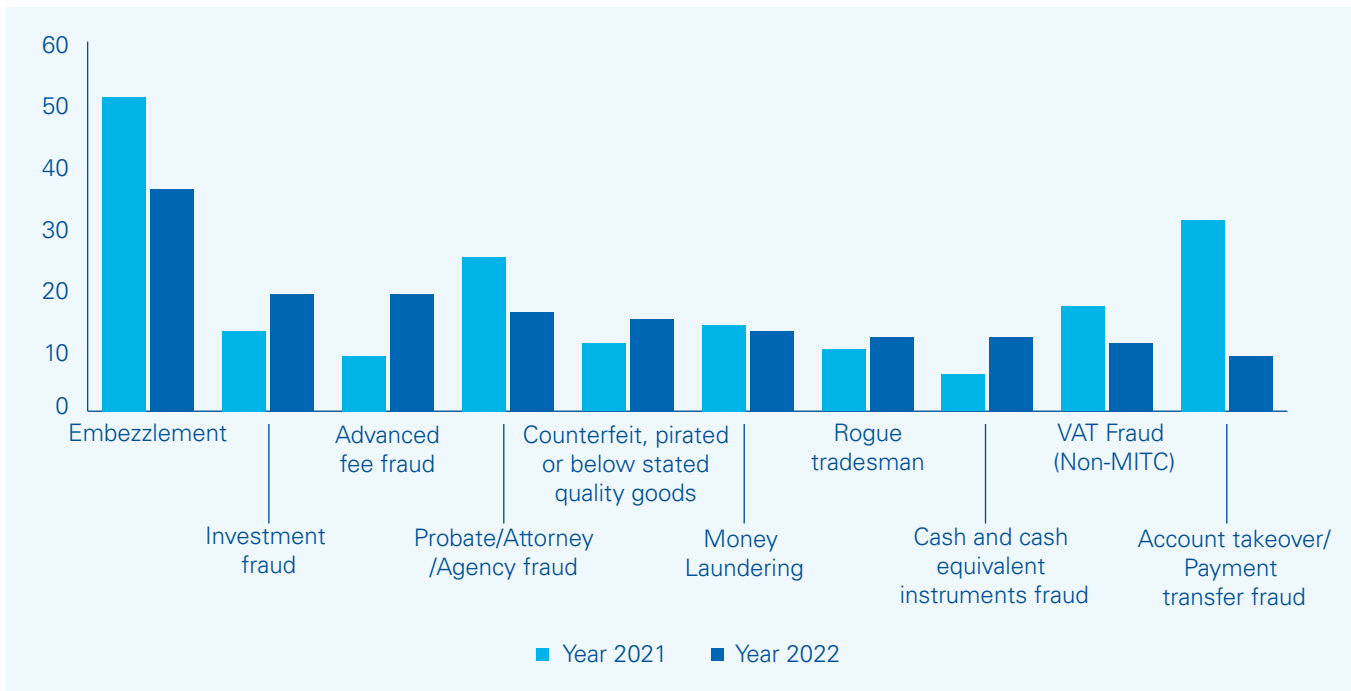
Change in total volume and value of cases recorded over the last five years



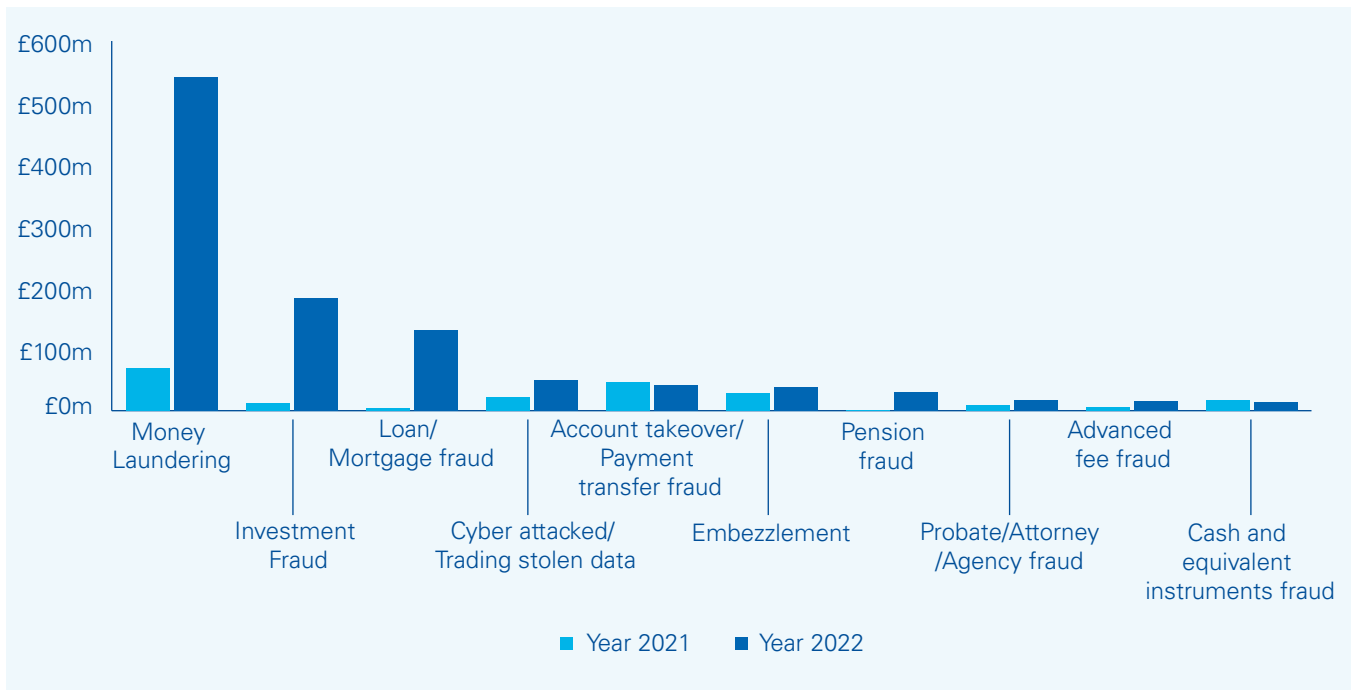
Top frauds by case volumes in 2022, with prior years comparison



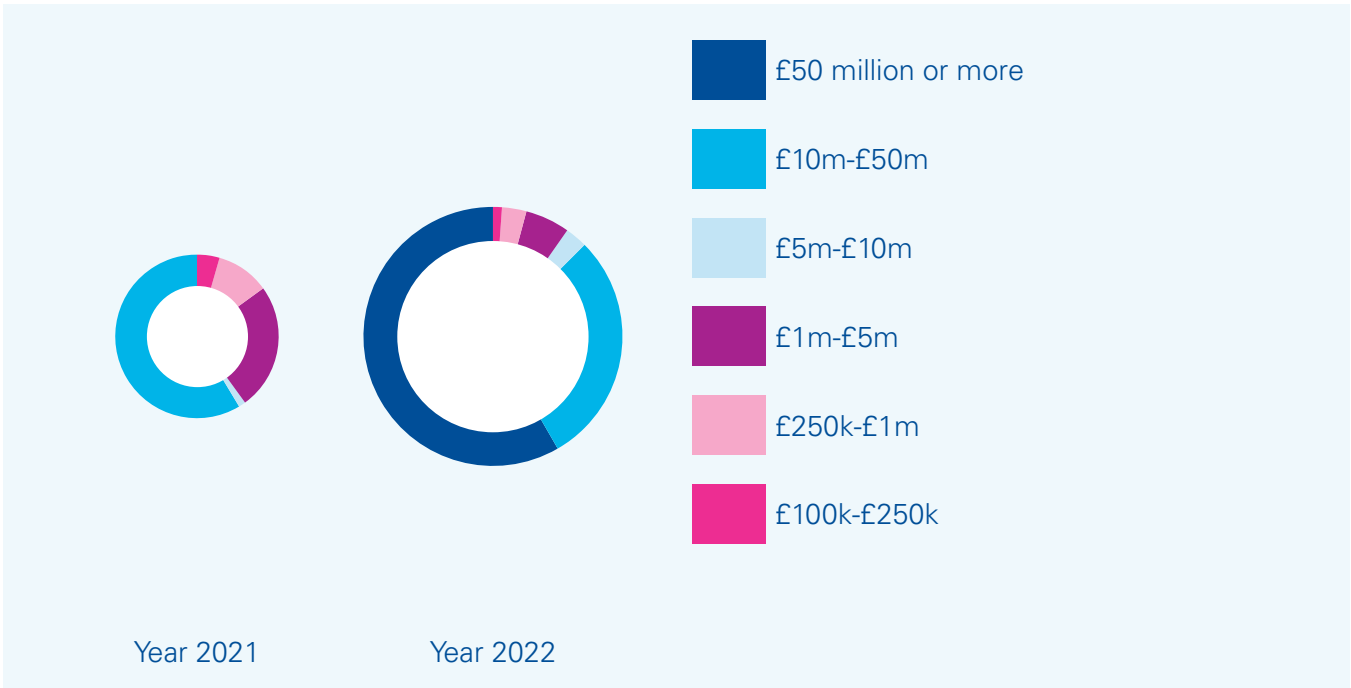
Top frauds by case volumes in 2022, with prior years comparison



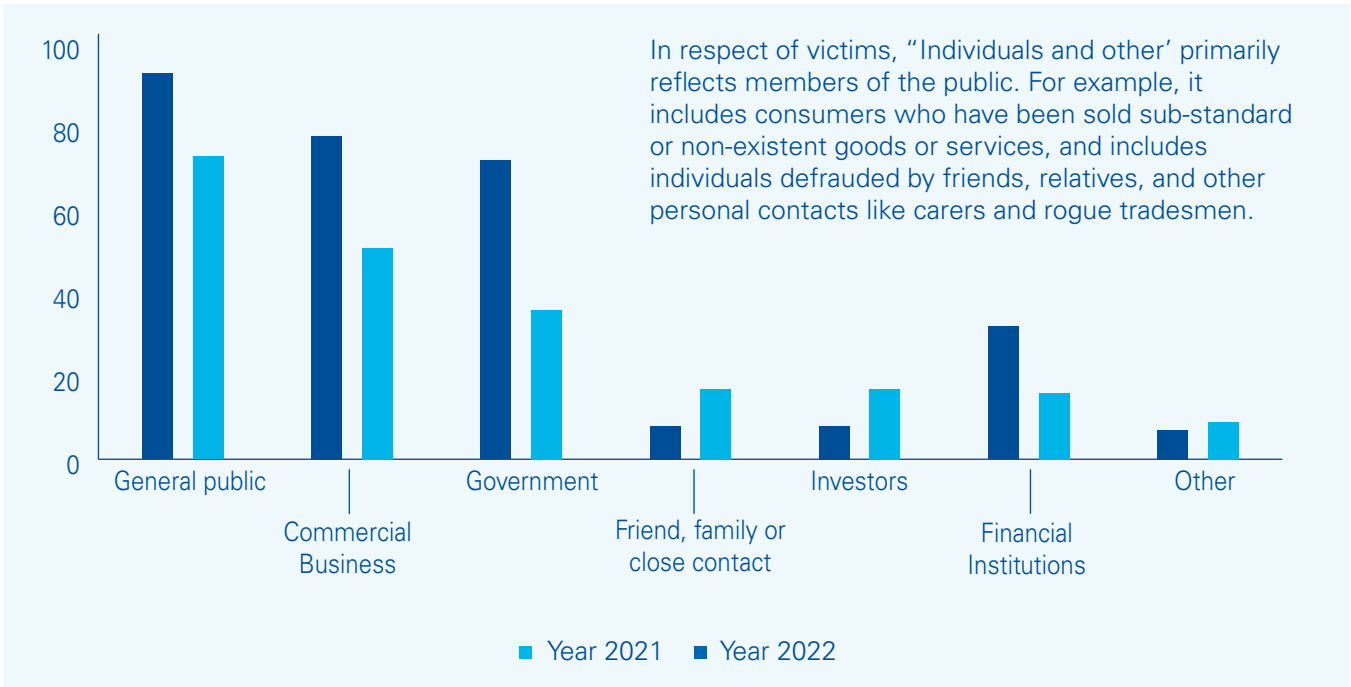
Top frauds by case values in 2022, with prior years comparison



Proportion of values in Fraud Barometer, by case value range



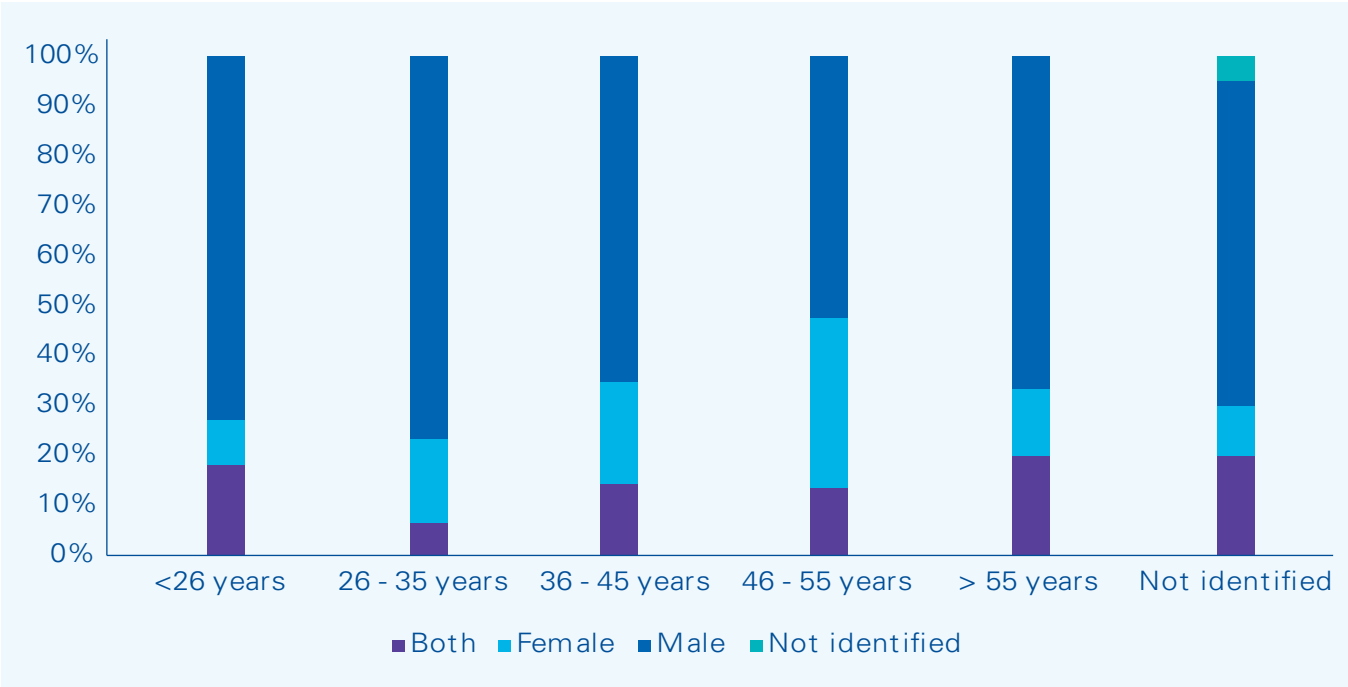
Fraud volumes by victim, 2021-2022



Fraud volumes by perpetrator, 2021-2022



Frauds in 2022 by perpetrator age, analysed by gender (volume of cases)



Further resources

Please see our website for regular updates and articles from our experts on financial crime developments and fraud risk management. KPMG has been leading the way in terms of helping organisations to improve internal controls that also address fraud - please contact us should you want to find out how we can help you improve your internal control framework.

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