

# SARs Investigations: Practice like a Professional



The requirement to identify and report suspicious activity for money laundering and/or terrorist financing exists in nearly every well-regulated country and sector. Yet the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) often finds that many countries perform poorly on the quality and quantity of suspicious activity reporting to their respective financial intelligence units (FIUs). Enforcement action for money laundering failures often involves court proceedings that require a responsible officer to justify their investigations when suspicion was identified, and regulators often report that these officers fall below the expected standard of competence in articulating these decisions and rationales.

Therefore, in this second of an optional two-part learning journey, you will be immersed in a digital learning case study which will take you through a practice investigative scenario. This will provide you with direct practical experience, giving you the opportunity to explore the key elements of investigating an internal report or alert, and the skills and techniques required. This will include gathering information, analysis, decision-making and articulating suspicion.

By allowing you to practice key skills, this course will help you build confidence in a case-study based, sandbox learning environment where it's safe to make mistakes.

**NOTE: although this course is the second part of a two-part learning journey, it can be studied on its own.**

It is anticipated that a learner may take 3 hours to study and absorb the course content.

Course Component (inc. hours)	Takeaways	Learning Objectives
<b>SARs – the essentials in brief</b>	<b>15 mins</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Define a Suspicious Activity Report (SAR) and understand why they must be submitted.</li><li>• Determine how to conduct an investigation of an internal alert, including contacting the customer.</li><li>• When to file a SAR and the actions that should be taken following submission.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstrate the fundamentals of SARs, and describe the internal investigations that can lead to the filing of such a report.</li></ul>

Course Component (inc. hours)		Takeaways	Learning Objectives
<b>Setting the scene</b>	<b>15 mins</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through the use of a graphic, discover what has happened in the scenario so far.</li> <li>• Using visual and audio descriptions, identify the role to be played by the learner in this scenario.</li> <li>• Understand the circumstances that led to the filing of an internal SAR in the scenario.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify what role is to be played in this scenario and what events have previously taken place.</li> </ul>
<b>Immersive scenario</b>	<b>2 ½ hours</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through an immersive and practical investigative scenario, practice the key skills, techniques and decisions needed for a SAR investigation including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• receiving an internal SAR</li> <li>• determining what information is needed in order to investigate</li> <li>• managing communications, and</li> <li>• completing a SAR.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct an effective and robust investigation into reported suspicious activity, applying judgement and critically assessing the information available in order to make the correct decisions.</li> </ul>