

The future of SARs: where the UK's reporting regime is heading

Key signals from the AML and Asset
Recovery Strategy 2026-2029

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What's driving the review?

ONE CORE AIM:

To reduce low-value activity and unnecessary burden - while improving the quality of intelligence.

To get there, the strategy sets out to:

- Ease pressure on the UKFIU from high volumes of limited-value SARs
- Link reporting more directly to live investigations and asset recovery
- Build a single, more proactive financial intelligence system
- Review whether thresholds and processes are still proportionate
- Keep pace with threats moving faster than volume alone can track

The scale of the problem

866,616

SARs submitted to the UKFIU in 2024/25 -
volumes remain high despite reform

£382.6m +59% YoY

denied through Defence Against Money
Laundering (DAML) SARs

Previous DAML SARs reforms already eased some pressure on firms
and the UKFIU.

The Government confirmed it will explore further SARs reform.

What's coming

National Financial Intelligence Service

New NECC-host, integrating SARs with wider public-private intelligence

A stronger UKFIU

AI-enabled technology, more staff and enhanced information-gathering powers

SARs regime review

Less duplication and friction, particularly in financial and legal services

Suspicion threshold review

With a specific focus on impacts for high-value reporters

Digital reporting

New SAR portal live; SARs Digital Service (SDS) rolling out for end-to-end analysis and feedback

What this means for firms

No new obligations land today.

The strategy sets direction - the value now is in watching and preparing, not reacting.

FIRMS SHOULD:

- Use UKFIU feedback and guidance on SAR quality to inform their own SAR processes
- Track the suspicion threshold review - it could reshape what needs reporting
- Follow the SDS rollout and any changes to portal reporting
- Note the shift towards closer integration of SAR data with law enforcement

How we can support

Leading firms are already...

- Reviewing SAR quality and triage frameworks
- Assessing DAML SAR workflows against reform direction
- Preparing systems and teams for SDS and portal changes
- Benchmarking reporting practices against UKFIU expectations

Plenitude supports firms with:

- SARs process reviews
- Risk, threat & typology assessments
- Financial intelligence readiness
- Regulatory horizon scanning

This is a space to watch.

The consultations and announcements ahead will shape the future of SAR reporting - the firms tracking them now will be the ones ready to move.

SOURCE:

[Anti-money laundering and asset recovery strategy 2026–2029 – Gov.UK](#)