



The **UK Government Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport** published an alpha version of the UK [digital identity and attributes trust framework](#) for feedback. The framework aims to create a clear set of rules that show what 'good' digital identities look like and establish governance and oversight. The Financial Conduct Authority ('FCA') also published a [blog post](#) on the benefits of digital identification, including enhanced customer experience at onboarding and the need for a trust framework to bring standardisation, clarity and consistency to digital identity.

## UK

The **FCA** also published [final guidance](#) clarifying its expectations of firm's on the fair treatment of vulnerable customers.

The **UK Financial Intelligence Unit** ('UKFIU') magazine recently published their ninth edition, '[SARs in Action](#)', focusing on the gambling sector. The UK National Crime Agency ('NCA') has been working to increase the quality and impact of Suspicious Activity Reports ('SARs') from the sector, through engagement with the Gambling Anti-Money Laundering Group.

The **UK Office for Financial Sanctions Implementation** ('OFSI') published a number of updates throughout February to the following sanctions lists (consolidated list also found [here](#)):

- [Burma](#)
- [Central African Republic](#)
- [ISIL \(Da'esh\) and Al-Qaida](#)

The biggest changes are to the Myanmar/Burma sanctions regime, imposing sanctions on military generals following the recent coup.

**HM Revenue & Customs** ('HMRC') recently published [guidance](#) on how to help prevent money laundering and terrorist financing in the audit, tax advisory or accountancy sectors, covering core controls such as customer due diligence, record keeping and reporting suspicious activity. HMRC also published [risk assessment information](#) for accountancy service providers.

## US

The **Financial Crimes Enforcement Network** ('FinCEN') is publishing a series of advisories on COVID-19-related frauds and criminal activity. In February, FinCEN published an advisory on [Financial Crimes Targeting COVID-19 Economic Impact Payments](#) and another on [COVID-19 Health Insurance- and Health Care-Related Fraud](#).

The **Office of Foreign Assets Control** ('OFAC') made updates to both its [CAATSA - Russia-related Designated Nationals List](#) and, similar to the UK, its [Burma-related Designated Nationals List](#).

## Europe

The **European Banking Authority** ('EBA') published an [opinion piece](#) calling on national authorities to ensure banks remove any remaining obstacles that prevent third party providers from accessing payment accounts under the Payment Services Directive. Actions should be taken by 30 April 2021.

**Europol** published its [Programming Document](#) for 2021-2023. The document notes that, alongside ongoing duties, Europol will focus on new policy initiatives and implementing emerging tasks falling within Europol's mandate (e.g. the new EU Security Union Strategy and the EU Drugs Agenda).

**Europol** also published an [early warning notice](#) on the illicit sale of false, negative COVID-19 certificates. Several cases have emerged of fake documents being sold to travellers in France, Spain and the UK.

**European Union** foreign ministers [reportedly agreed](#) to apply sanctions to four Russian officials involved in the arrest and detention of Alexei Navalny, the Russian opposition leader. The agreement is expected to be [approved in March](#).

## Global

The **Financial Action Task Force** ('FATF') published its summary of [outcomes from the Plenary](#) held on 22, 24 and 25 February. Alongside ongoing work, FATF agreed on:

- the need for guidance to help countries take an effective, risk-based approach on investigating and prosecuting terrorist financing /illicit arms trafficking;
- the release of draft guidance on the risks of the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; and
- delivering updated guidance on virtual assets and virtual asset service providers.

**Transparency International** also [submitted an appeal](#) to the UN General Assembly with more than 700 signatories calling for a new global standard on beneficial ownership transparency.

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