

CATEGORY 18
PARTY CONFERENCE
FRINGE EVENT OF THE YEAR

THE FRAUD
FRINGE 2016



Fraud and cyber-crime is a major threat to UK businesses and UK consumers. There were 6 million cases of fraud and cyber-crime last year, costing British businesses at least £1 billion to over the last year, and the UK economy £193bn a year.

Despite problems in tracking and reporting fraud, it is rising up the political agenda as shown by recent debates focusing on the impact on vulnerable customers. But Connect’s clients were telling us that more needs to be done. That is why we brought together seven of the UK’s leading organisations to present the full picture at the party conferences.

WHAT DID CONNECT DO?

There are a range of ‘voices’ around fraud, but rarely do they come together to present a united front. Connect felt that the party conferences were an ideal opportunity to show the strength of feeling around this issue, and demonstrate practical solutions for politicians to take forward.

Because of the number of perspectives – from protecting vulnerable consumers, to the importance of data sharing, to raising awareness of fraud and scams – Connect designed a dragons-den style format where each participating organisation would put forward their ideas to Ministers, Shadow Ministers, MPs, key stakeholders and party members in under three minutes.

This created a quick paced dynamic, generating interest and interaction from delegates.

THE PITCHES

Cifas	The importance of education
Age UK	Banks to delay payments in limited circumstances, such as over a certain amount, to new payees, or for known scam victims.
BBA	Break down barriers between and take a holistic approach to all types of financial crime
Chartered Trading Standards Institute	New measures are needed to ensure that consumers are fully aware of how their data is being shared with others.
Federation of Communication Services	Implement laws that prevent dial-through fraud
Financial Fraud Action UK	‘Take 5’ steps to change attitude and shift public behaviour
Insurance Fraud Bureau	Increase power for regulators to tackle rogue organisations

“Fraud is cross-societal issue affecting citizens as well as organisations. The fact that the Fraud Fringe panel was representing that cross-sector element really brought home to the audience the impact collaboration can have in tackling this growing crime.

Questions from the delegates showed how important they thought tackling fraud was. Across all the party conferences there was a genuine desire to tackle this crime and think imaginatively about the solutions to this issue.

Simon Dukes, Chief Executive of Cifas

THE FRAUD FRINGE 2016



LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE

Chaired by Toby Perkins MP, the former Shadow Minister for Small Business, the fraud fringe in Liverpool brought the Shadow Minister for the Digital Economy, Chi Onwurah MP, head to head with the former Shadow Minister for Policing, Jack Dromey MP. All three politicians were able to use personal experience to add lively and informative contributions to the discussion and raise issues with the panellists.

Chi Onwurah spoke of cyber security as “one of the big issues of our time” pointing towards a ransom-ware attack in her own constituency as well as hacked emails from a deceased friend.

Jack Dromey described the problems keeping pace with cybercrime and fraud, explaining that people are now more likely to be mugged online than in the street.



CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONFERENCE

In Birmingham, the Conservative Fraud Fringe heard from Brandon Lewis MP, the Minister for Policing, who acknowledged the impact that fraud and scams had on people’s lives.

The Minister commented on the startling pace of technological development, and said that the public needed to be much more vigilant.

He said he would take on board the idea of a data sharing facility, and acknowledged that the Data Protection Act had been used by middle management “as an excuse to say no to something.” He accepted that a break-down of barriers to share data would be an effective method to tackle fraud.

Several of the Partners pitches focused on the need for better education. Simon Fell, Assistant Director of Engagement at Cifas pointed out that the UK now had the first generation of children “entire lives have been online,” noting that data sharing on personal lives was ripe for fraudsters and giving people cyber life skills was crucial. Katy Worobec, Director of Financial Fraud Action UK, emphasised that there needed to be greater collaborative work on fighting fraud. She said it in her view, it was “all about education.”

The fringe chair was Stephen Mold, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire, who has made tackling fraud a personal priority since being elected.



Fascinating fringe event on fraud with @BrandonLewis @Cifas_UK @bbavoice @ctsi_uk @LeonLivermore @FFAUK @BenFletcher1FB #CPC16

THE FRAUD FRINGE 2016



SNP CONFERENCE

Fraud is a major issue north of the border, with Scottish fraud growing **80%** last year to reach more than **£18 million**.

In Glasgow, the SNP Fraud Fringe heard from Michael Matheson MSP, the Cabinet Secretary for Justice, who said highlighted the importance of collaboration important in tackling fraud. He pointed out that there was very little data sharing between government departments and that the private and public sector needed to work together in a smarter way.

He said that fraud was often a result of organised crime in Scotland and that there needed to be a large effort to ensure that businesses and the home environment are as hostile as possible to deter fraudsters.

Patricia Gibson MP who chaired the event, spoke with passion on her Ten Minute Rule Bill that she introduced in September, Unsolicited Marketing Communications (Company Directors) Bill, which aims to tackle the problem of nuisance phone calls and texts.



There was an interesting and lively discussion. Certainly as more and more members of our communities live with dementia with some evidence to show they are being specifically targeted by scammers, and with fraud increasingly moving online, we all need to do as much as possible to educate ourselves on just how sophisticated scammers can be in their schemes to defraud people out of their hard-earned cash.

Patricia Gibson MP



Delighted to chair [#fraudfringe](#) event at SNP Conference, with keynote speaker Michael Matheson MSP, Cab Sec 4 Justice



