Use Case: Economic Crime.

Research Topics: In Octoer 2025, the Home Office and NECC published areas that they want to be researched to help prevent Financial Crime: www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/who-we-are/publications/755-economic-crime-areas-of-research-interest-ari-report-july-2025/file

Challenge Statement	Examples and Impact	Pathways and Solutions	Input to Research Topics
Cross Jurisdictional Compliance Complexity Managing divergent regulatory approaches	a. Danske Bank money laundering issue across jurisdictions. b. UK seen as an easier jurisdiction for criminals vs more organised jurisdictions like Singapore and Australia (with anti-scam centres and better information sharing).	a. Benchmarking framework for global best practice in tackling economic crime, leveraging FATF and beyond. b.Standards for data and intelligence sharing. c. Collaboration to explore the potential for and define pathways to consolidation of supervision, alignment of regulation (globally, regionally, nationally) and aligned /single oversight authority. d. Standards and best practices for SARs to avoid present challenge that <1% lead to activity).	1. Economic crime stats across jurisdictions, rationale for differences and best practices. 2. How differing local and international regulation is being leveraged unethically and what would be needed to address that. 3. Research on global data sharing practices and opportunities. 4. Emerging tech to define the role is should play (should be public sector led).
Regulatory Convergence vs Divergence Where is regulatory harmonization beneficial vs maintaining regional differences	a. Includes proportionality for small firms/credit unions, inclusion risks, illegal lending, loan sharks, etc.	a. Benchamarking of tools which provide a harmonised layer above local specifics to manage divergence. b. Benchmarking of regulation which addresses proportionality e.g. which would be helpful for UK Credit Unions and collaboration with reguators / trade bodies around its potential implementation.	1. How countries with small instititions like Credit Unions (e.g. US, Canada, Australia, Ireland) regulate with proportionality and what could be applied in UK. 2. Implications of making RegTech regulated. 3. Potential unintended consequences of digital IDs and how to mitigate.
Technology & Sustainability Paradox Develop a Green RegTech diagnostic to ensure sustainability-by-design standard	a. There are many RegTech tools in the market. It is difficult to assess functional output and data source reliability, and consquently their utility and suitability. Expands to cover RegTech quality, explainability, data benchmarking, sustainability standards, and inclusion of explainable AI governance in RegTech.	a. Standards for RegTech developers. b. Benchmarking of RegTech products / vendors suitable for smaller institutions e.g. credit unions or for tailored solutions. c. Standards for certification of RegTech solutions. d. Benchmarking of sources of real-time data across jurisdictions.	1. Sources of real-time data, benchmarked across jurisdictions. 2. Research on cross-jurisdiction RegTech evaluation and sustainability-by-design standards.
Implementation Design challenges - scalability vs sustainability RegTech solutions that can scale effectively while adhering to environmental responsibility standards	a. Includes FCA's tech-positive gap, small RegTech struggles, professional enabler ethics, training, and judicial education gaps. b. Question whether FCA's tech-positivity goes far enough and whether small RegTech businesses need more help.	a. Standards for proportional RegTech adoption, shared utilities, AML ethics & literacy training, inclusion testing, and sandbox pilots. b. Standards for Regtech design to better support enforcement of AML standards.	1. Research on RegTech validation models, literacy impacts, and inclusive AML design frameworks. 2. How to improve RegTech's accuracy of matching techniques and decrease false positives.

USE CASE: Sustainability

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Cross Jurisdictional Compliance Complexity Managing divergent regulatory approaches	a. Financial institutions face growing challenges in managing multiple ESG reporting frameworks, such as the EU Taxonomy, UK SDR, and US SEC disclosure proposals. The inconsistency creates ambiguity around directors' responsibilities, increases compliance costs, potential for reputational risk and litigation and slows sustainability adoption. b. Example of GDPR may be different in certain places however it still has the same aim of protecting user data. Ensuring every financial transaction has some ESG tag to them would help report now and for the future.	a. Principles-based framework for sustainability, cross-border compliance and improved data quality. b. Benchmarking of RegTech solutions to automate reporting and horizon scanning. Standards for the adoption of RegTech.	1. Benchmarking of global ESG rules, analysis of overlaps or conflicts and identification of ways to make them more consistent and compatible.
Regulatory Convergence vs Divergence Where is regulatory harmonization beneficial vs maintaining regional differences	a. There are differences in objective and approach globally e.g. the EU's prescriptive ESG rules to achieve specific objectives (eg Paris alignment, end deforestation), the UK's consultative model, and the US's market-driven stance, leading to misaligned, fragmented regulation and innovation. b. The EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) illustrates how strict rules can stimulate traceability technology but challenge exporters and make certain markets less competitive	a. Collaboration between regulators and industry to find pathways to encourage international coordination while preserving regional flexibility to promote sustainability without stifling innovation. could promote this balance.	1. Analysis of where harmonization improves outcomes and where regional divergence better supports sustainable innovation. 2. Analysis of regulatory frameworks by jurisdiction and developments in sustainability-related litigation
Technology & Sustainability Paradox Develop a Green RegTech diagnostic to ensure sustainability-by-design standard	a. AI systems and data centres consume large amounts of energy and water, as seen in hyperscale facilities in regions like Cambridge and Dublin. These impacts challenge sustainability goals even as digital infrastructure expands.	a. Standards for sustainability metrics, such as energy and water consumption, to be embedded into AI and technology regulation to promote responsible innovation. b. Standards for Green RegTech design and adoption.	1. How to measure AI's environmental footprint taking into account location-specificity of nature-related impacts.
Implementation Design challenges - scalability vs sustainability RegTech solutions that can scale effectively while adhering to environmental responsibility standards	a. The 2021 global semiconductor shortage caused by Taiwan's drought showed how environmental stress can disrupt global supply chains and create major financial losses across sectors such as automotive manufacturing. b. EU regulation around deforestation stops companies from being able to sell products in this ecosystem if they don't adhere to these regulations.	a. Education around sustainability being a component of operational resilience and using Earth Observation data for predictive risk management to help balance scalability with environmental responsibility. b. Benchmarking on sustainability goals (across companies and jurisdictions) and collaboration with global regulators on implementation.	2. How scalable RegTech systems can be developed without compromising environmental performance or sustainabilty goals.

USE CASE: AI Governance

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Cross Jurisdictional Compliance Complexity Managing divergent regulatory approaches	a. Incident Management approach across jurisdictions can lead to complexity as the same incident can evoke range of responses from regulators across jurisdictions with different outcomes and regulatory frameworks at play. Even within domestic situation, the FCA and PRA have different focus between conduct and resilience. b. Challenges around defining what good looks like, especially when people have different interpretations and benchmarks e.g. societal and industry. c. EU is trying to move to a less regulated environment, tech that is developed needs to adapt to challenging conditions.	a. Standards on incident management to promote global harmonisation. b. Standards for best practice on AI design e.g. focusing on the consumer, designing from the solution not the problem. c. Collaboration to define pathways to incentivising good behaviours. d. Benchmarking across regulators and definition of best practices.	1. Cross-jurisdictional opportunity for research: to investigate the topics that are common to all regulators around which regulation could converge, eg a framework that identifies "good conduct/behaviour" 2. Regional Differences and Behaviour - focus on the Consumer - where is the consumer in all of this. Are their voices really being reflected and taken into account rather than decisions/research behind the scenes without due consideration. 3. Cross Jurisdiction - assess the relevant benefits of global divergence / convergence and regulatory approaches.
Regulatory Convergence vs Divergence Where is regulatory harmonization beneficial vs maintaining regional differences	a. From a financial literacy perspective, financial advisors are nervous as the FCA holds them to a conservative approach, while AI's advice is unregulated but may require a regulatory response. b. It does not need to be one-size fits all where there are reasons for national or regional divergance, e.g. today between EU, UK , China and UK, breaking down silos and collaboration is key even where laws and expectations differ.	a. Standards to mitigate the risks and enable navigation of divergence. b. Benchmarking on AI practices to learn best practices from regulatory divergance e.g. simplified / common language. c. Ways to incentivise good outcomes and ethical adoption of AI.	1. How regulation can focus on benchmarking good outcomes , making the language simpler and more effectively incentivising good behaviour as opposed to penalising bad. 2. Financial literacy and education across the jurisdictions and the link to improved financial lives particularly later in life. 3. Review how different regulators approach common regulatory themes and research opportunities for consistency and harmonisation in regulatory approach. 4. Testing of different cultures' use of AI linked to its associated regulatory approach, to provide a feedback loop. 5. How different designs for presenting AI-generated regulatory information affects compliance. 6. Positive examples / frameworks for regulatory harmonisation or methods for navigating apparent conflicts. 7. Identify regulatory divergence and an assessment of the impacts.

Technology & Sustainability Paradox Develop a Green RegTech diagnostic to ensure sustainability-by-design standard	a. Opinions vary as to whether AI is sustainable or justifiable and the relative impacts of it. A recent blog on GenAI has highlighted that 300 AI searches is equivalent to 1 hour of TV, so may be worth exploring more on what the AI use can improve in terms of generating revenue and creating value versus the energy cost. b. There is the question of what we are trying to use AI for - to improve efficiency for long-term sustainability or to generate more revenue. This impacts the benchmarks. c. There is a materiality threshold question, balancing regulation without trading off innovation, given the importance of preventing harm. Ethics by design and sustainability by design are key, while navigating trade-offs.	a. Standard for AI governance and holistic design of AI solutions to ensure that it satisfies objectives. b. Collaboration around the creation of standards for designing ground up solutions between academia, industry and parliament and ongoing feedback loops, using Regtech solutions which can scale effectively. c. Principles of best practice, not for the solutions but to increase everyone's capacity to handle the key questions about AI. d. Benchmarking on improving the feedback loops of regulation.	1. Use of citizen's assemblies to identify customer concerns and priorities for what good looks like at a societal level. with industry assemblies doing the same at an industry level. 2. Blockages to sustainability i.e. what moves the needle from an academic point of view and access to that information at a bottom up level to map to design. 3. Examples or a framework to capture regulatory harmonisation and successful navigation of conflicts. 4. Researching frameworks for navigating competing issues (e.g. wrt sustainability by design etc) dealing with trade offs as well as identifying materiality. Enhanced understanding of the trade off between tech and sustainability to fully understand where AI solutions are addressing issues without being resource intensive. 5. Expanding sources of information to gain a more holistic view of consumer behaviour and concerns.
Implementation Design challenges - scalability vs sustainability RegTech solutions that can scale effectively while adhering to environmental responsibility standards	Not covered in depth, but two major research topics were surfaced during the workshop		1. Procurement due diligence as a means of providing commercial incentive to achieve ethical standards beyond simply regulatory compliance 2. There is a need for independent research that is rounded (involving input from multiple parties in the ecosystem) regarding why digital and AI transformation programmes fail. Currently, too many articles are consultancy authored, and lack academic rigour