

# Fraud Awareness for Internal AUDITORS The impact of Covid-19 on Fraud Trends

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# Introduction presenters





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## Who joined us today?





















Absa

Alcopa Group

AquaFlanders

Barco NV

Befimmo SA

Belchim Crop Protection NV

Carmeuse

Colruyt Group Services

Daikin Europe

De Vlaamse Waterweg

**Dover Corporation** 

**Duvel Moortgat** 

D ieteren

Fluvius

Federal Internal Audit

Greenyard

Holcim

Hulpkas voor Ziekte- en Invaliditeitsverzekering Kinepolis Group NV

Jan De Nul

MBAPL

NN Belgium

Rijksdienst voor Sociale Zekerheid

Pemda Kabupaten Bandung

Promethera Biosciences

Samsonite

Saudi Payments

SAS

SCR Sibelco

Total Raffinaderij Antwerpen

UCB

**UGent** 

UZA

Vandemoortele

Willemen groep

ZNA

ZyLAB



### The Current Covid-19 Climate

#### On the rise:



Demand for goods



Demand for information



Mobility & remote working



Economic uncertainty

### Leading to:

Significant changes in business and working patterns

Unprecedented volume of cyber-attacks and cyber enabled fraud

Significant economic impact on the performance of business

Damage to employee wellbeing and customer sentiment



### Today's agenda



### Overview

- 1. Fraud: what is it and whydo people commit it?
- 2. Covid-19 Trends
- 3. Fraud Prevention
- 4. In the event of a Fraud
- 5. Takeaways



### KPMG

# Frau. what is it and why do Deople commit it?

## Categories of fraud

### Misappropriation of assets

- Payroll fraud
- Expenses fraud
- Procurement fraud
- Theft of assets e.g. stock and cash
- Theft of intellectual property

### Fraudulent financial reporting

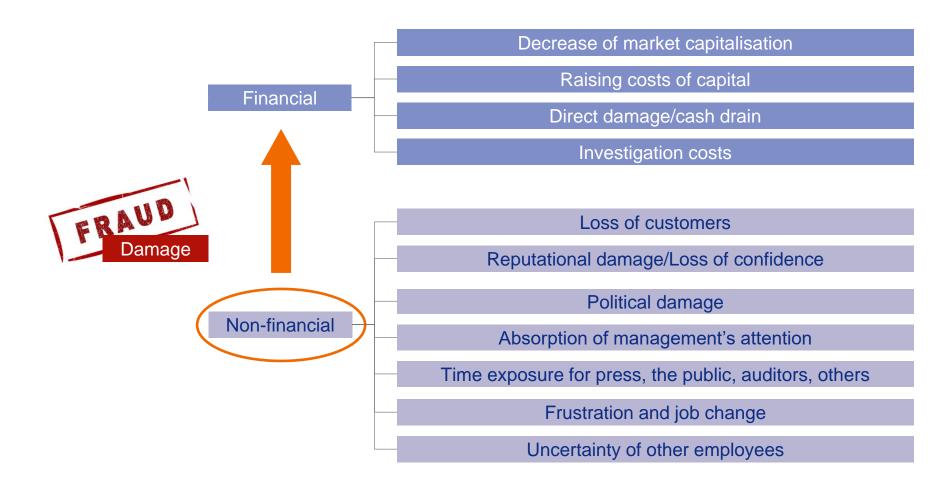
- Improper revenue recognition
- Overstatement of assets
- Understatement of liabilities
- Customer overbilling
- Treasury & investment related fraud

### Related illegal activity

- Competitive behaviour
- Bribery and corruption
- Money laundering
- Organised crime
- Insider trading

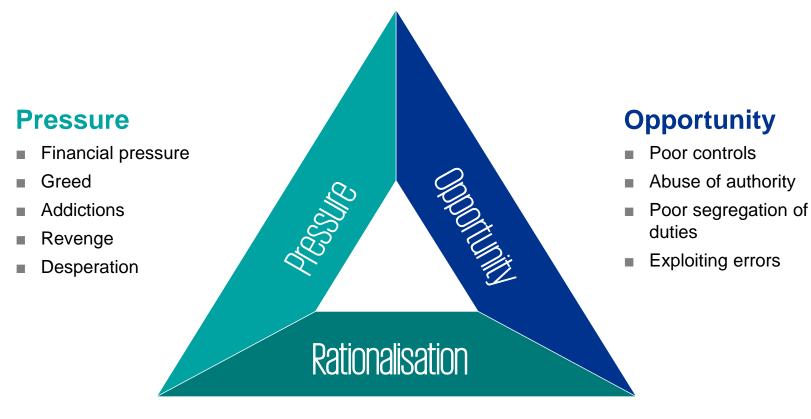


## What is the impact of fraud?





## Why do people commit fraud - the Fraud Triangle

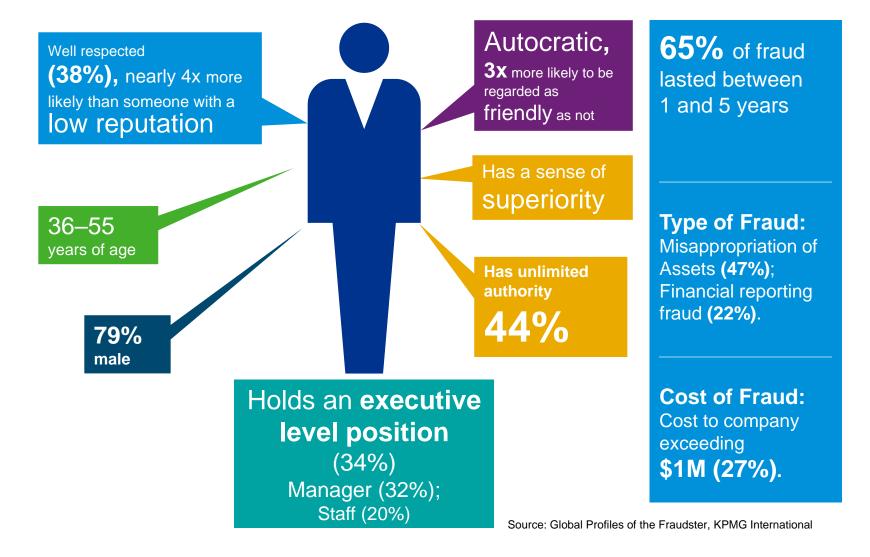


### Rationalisation

- "I need the money"
- "I deserve more"
- "People need me to"

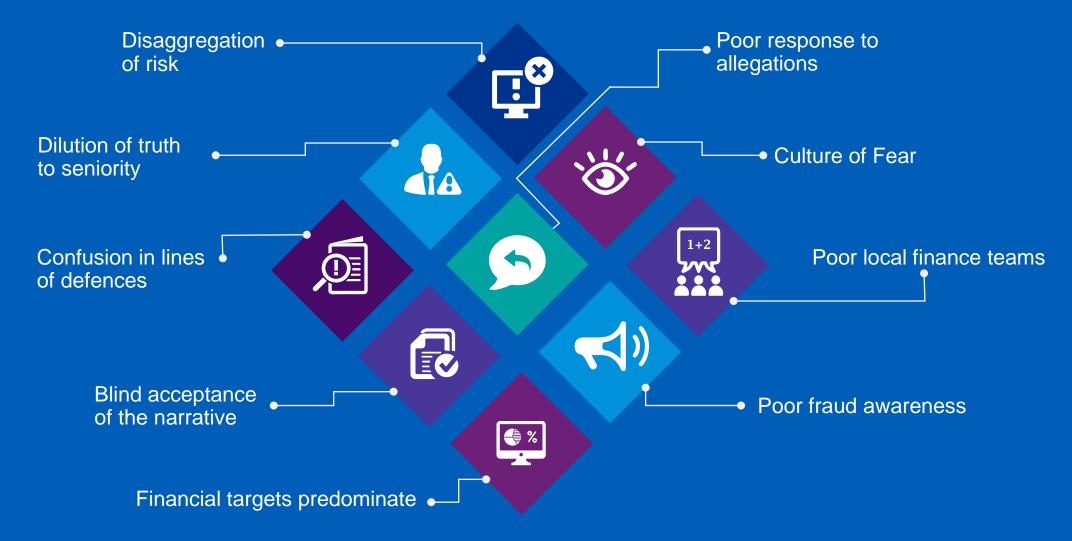


### Fundamental characteristics: Overview





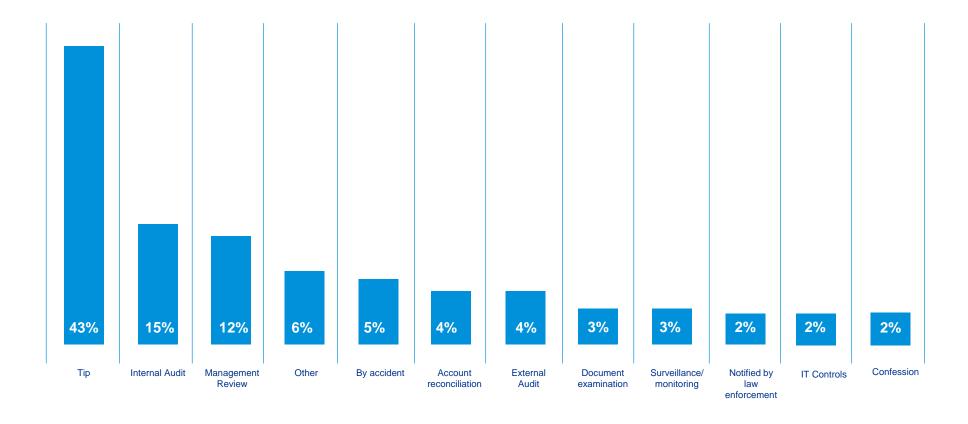
# Organisational findings: fraud enablers





### Means of detection

#### **How were the Frauds detected?**



Source: ACFE Report to the Nations 2020



### New EU Directive on Whistleblower Protection coming into effect December 2021



#### **Purpose:**

To enhance enforcement of Union law and policies in specific areas by laying down common minimum standards providing for a high level of protection of persons reporting breaches

### Obligation to have internal whistleblowing policies in private and public sector

For legal entities in private sector:

- 50 or more workers; or,
- Private companies active in financial services, products and markets, and AML and terrorist financing

#### **Protection of whistleblowers:**

- If reasonable grounds to believe that information was true at the time of reporting and within the scope of Directive
- · Reported internally, externally or made public

#### Personal scope of application:

Protection of employees, persons with self-employed status, persons belonging to administrative management or supervisory body, volunteers and paid/unpaid trainees

#### Cascade system:

- 1. Internal reporting system (article 7) encouraged by member states
- 2. External reporting system (article 10)
- 3. Public disclosure (article 15)

#### Penalties:

Member States shall provide for effective penalties to natural or legal persons that:

- a) Hinder or attempt to hinder reporting
- b) Retaliate against reporting persons
- c) Bring vexatious proceeding against reporting persons
- Breach duty to maintain confidential the identity of reporting persons

Be on the lookout for our upcoming online self-assessment tool to gauge your organisation's maturity in terms of whistleblower protection and reporting!

For more detailed information on the Directive, please follow the following link: https://home.kpmg/be/en/home/insights/2019/12/rc-whistleblower-protection.html



# Covid-19 Trends

## COVID-19 fraud examples

#### **Belgium**

Belgian authorities fear they may have fallen victim to a coronavirus scam - after an order of 5 million protective masks failed to turn up.

Belgium had joined several European neighbours in a group purchase for protective gear from a Turkish company.

#### **Netherlands**

Dutch police took 10 fake web shops offline after they offered products such as COVID-19 tracker apps and anti-bacterial credit cards. Some had cloned the identities of legitimate shops.

#### **France**

A French school of engineering's name was used, without their consent, to certify the conformity of masks.

After being informed by a Italian pharmacist and an Hungarian company they discover the fraud and enforced legal actions.....

#### **Spain**

The Spanish government had to return 9,000 ineffective COVID-19 testing kits after buying them from an unauthorised and unlicensed company in China.

#### Switzerland

The Reporting and Analysis Centre for Information Assurance has detected large numbers of phishing and ransomware attempts linked to COVID-19. Some are sent in the name of the Federal Office for Public Health.

In addition, in March 2020 fishing attack was orchestrated against World Health Organization in which the fraudsters impersonated WHO to steal Bitcoin Covid-19 donations originally collected for the WHO's COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund.

#### **Belgium**

The Flemish government is claiming back €10 million as a result of corona premium related fraud.

According to figures from Flemish Minister of Work Hilde Crevits (CD&V). Government support has been provided for companies that have been hit hardest by the corona pandemic. In practice, however, it appears that companies that suffer little damage also applied for the aid.

#### **Belgium**

Fraudulent investments are being offered increasingly, in diverse forms and in very different domains.

These very diverse investments often hide the same fraudulent principle: the trust of a potential investor is won by a well-considered argument, a confident contact person and a professional-looking online platform where he can track his investment in real time. However, as soon as he wants to recover his stake or claim his winnings, all communication is cut and the scammers disappear with his money.



#### **UK / Germany / Turkey**

During the mayhem caused by the pandemic, companies around the world placed orders to acquire masks from all available sources; and it turned out that the supply never existed.

Fraudsters disappeared after obtaining a prepayment leaving companies with over EUR 20m in losses...

#### Italy

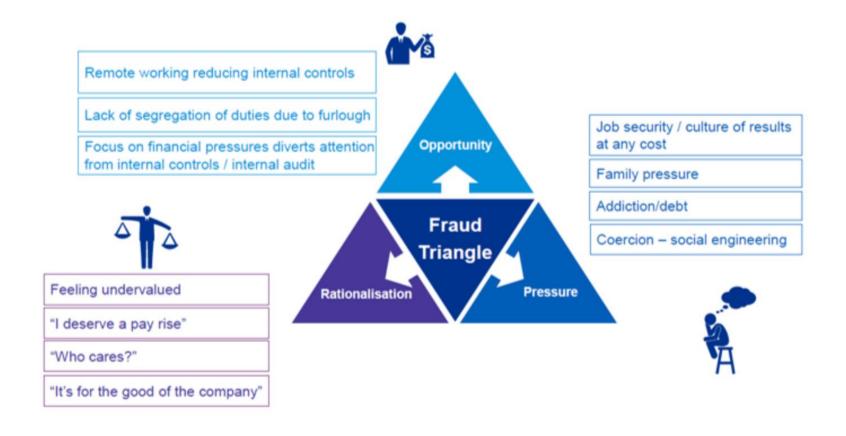
False declarations have been made to obtain government grants intended to support businesses during the pandemic.

Police have warned that people knocking on doors claiming to be testing for Coronavirus are actually seeking to steal valuables from the elderly.

Criminal organisations are thought to be taking advantage of the crisis to infiltrate vulnerable sectors of the economy such as through buying hotels.



## The pandemic has contributed to the Fraud Triangle





### Fraud alert



Economic downturn has created financial reporting pressure



Corporates should recognise the risk of management override of controls



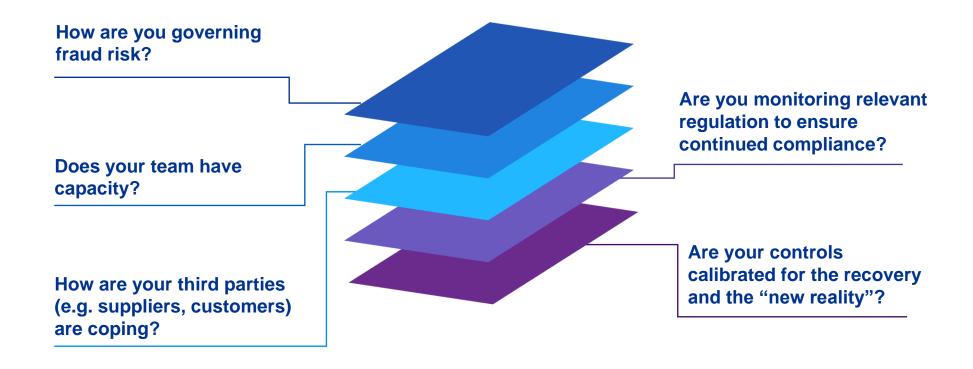
Individual pressures can increase traditional fraud risk areas of supply chain and procurement



Potential misuse of government aid schemes such as technical unemployment



## Are you fraud control ready?

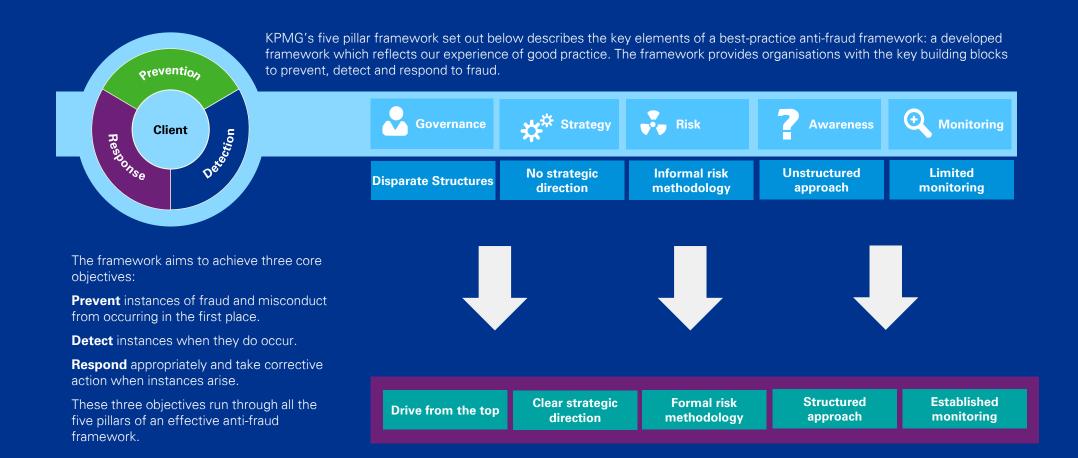






# Fraud prevention

### \*\* | KPMG's Fraud Risk Management Framework





# In the event of a fraud

### In the event of a fraud ....

#### **Understand the issue**

- What is alleged and level of proof?
- The potential scale of the problem
- The potential impact on the business
- Any remedial action to mitigate circumstances

### **Strategy**

- Communication
  - Internal
  - External
- PR management
- Investigation plan and obtaining evidence for:
  - Dismissal
  - Legal proceedings (injunctions / search orders/ recovery)

### **Investigations resources**

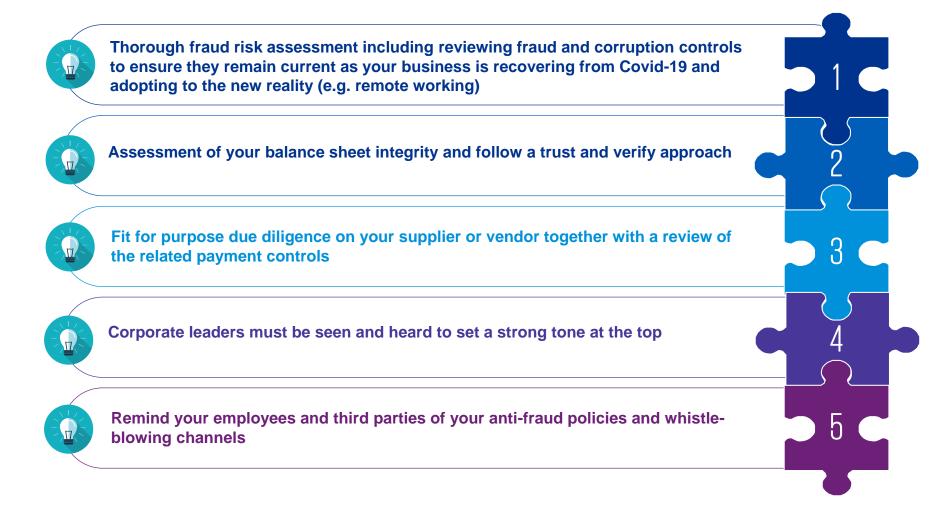
General Counsel	HR	Internal Audit
Security	Board	ExCo
Forensic accountants	Lawyers	Regulators





# Takeaways

### Five take always to address fraud risk in the time of crises





# Ouestion and discussion



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### KPING

# Thank you

### **Next webinar:**

Effectively improve cyber resilience and drive automated compliance and risk management

17 June 2020 at 14.00pm







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