



**The UK's Fraud Prevention Service**

# Press Release

19 August 2010

## LSC - the first public body to fight fraud through CIFAS

The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is the first public sector organisation to join CIFAS, the UK's Fraud Prevention Service, to counter the fraudulent use of taxpayers' money.

The LSC will pass information to CIFAS where false or inaccurate information has been provided by legal aid clients or providers and where fraud has been identified. Similarly, where the LSC suspects fraud, it will be able to double-check whether that individual has committed fraud in the past by searching for them on the CIFAS database.

**Welcoming the LSC's membership, CIFAS Chief Executive, Peter Hurst, said:** "We look forward to working with the LSC, the organisation responsible for the £2 billion legal aid budget, and helping them reduce the risk of fraud.

"The LSC knows that the vast majority of legal aid clients and providers are honest, but wants to ensure that legal aid only goes to vulnerable people who have a legitimate right to legal aid."

**LSC Director of Recovery Services, Richard Houlbrook, said:** "The Legal Services Commission has a zero-tolerance policy towards fraud and CIFAS membership will help us to stop taxpayers' money falling into the wrong hands."

For further information, contact [press@cifas.org.uk](mailto:press@cifas.org.uk)

### Notes to Editors:

1. CIFAS is the UK's Fraud Prevention Service, a not for profit Membership organisation with 265 cross sector Members including banking, credit cards, asset finance, retail credit, mail order, insurance and telecommunications with a number of public sector bodies preparing to join. Members lawfully share information on frauds in the fight to prevent further fraud.

2. The Legal Services Commission (LSC) runs [legal aid](#) in England and Wales. It works in partnership with solicitors and not-for-profit organisations to provide information, advice and legal representation to people who need legal help. Each year the LSC helps more than two million people to deal with their legal problems.