

Cross-Sector Asset Recovery Alliance

Summary of Latimer Network proposal, 30 March 2026

The problem

The UK currently recovers only a fraction of the assets that derive from economic crime and corruption: less than 1% of the UK's dirty money is being frozen and just 0.3% permanently recovered.¹ Public enforcement agencies face structural constraints that leave most illicit wealth beyond reach.

The proposal

A wide range of private sector capabilities – commercial intelligence, specialist investigators, litigation funders, civil litigators, forensic accountants – have the potential to contribute across the asset recovery lifecycle. Currently they operate ad hoc, uncoordinated, and ungoverned: a significant resource that is available in principle but underutilised in practice.

This proposal would change that. It sets out a systematic, governed framework for cross-sector collaboration – connecting criminal and civil routes, public and private capabilities – designed to maximise asset recovery in the public interest, with the safeguards necessary to ensure that private sector involvement serves that goal.

This proposal has been developed for consideration in the forthcoming **AMLAR Strategy** by a Latimer Network working group of public sector, private sector, and civil society experts. It directly supports the Illicit Finance Summit's planned **Non-Conviction-Based Asset Recovery Taskforce**: it provides an operational framework for the UK's domestic implementation of the Taskforce objectives and a model for other countries in the Taskforce to consider.

The detail

A new Asset Recovery Coordination Unit should act as a structured interface between public enforcement agencies and cross-sector partners operating on standardised terms. Core functions:

- Case triage: strategic pathway determination across criminal confiscation, Part V civil recovery, and private civil claims, ensuring most appropriate approach case by case.
- Information sharing: following tiered disclosure protocols aligned with existing legislation.
- Victim gateway: supporting victim identification and enabling access to remedial paths.
- Fee governance: application of pre-agreed, transparent structures to align commercial incentives with the public interest, preventing predatory behaviour or private sector cherry-picking of cases and ensuring victim priority provision.
- Safeguards: managing partner vetting and accreditation with defined requirements.

The benefits

This proposed Cross-Sector Asset Recovery Alliance would unlock greater strategic use of private sector capabilities and civil routes to asset recovery while protecting the public interest.

Private sector actors can mobilise at speed and deploy resources and capabilities that do not exist in the public sector. Civil recovery tools are also chronically underused yet offer distinct advantages: speed of action across jurisdictions, lower standard of proof than criminal prosecution, broader scope for corporate liability through attribution, the ability to recover full victim losses plus defendant gains, and claims that are enforceable against the totality of a defendant's assets. They also benefit from well-established international civil judgment recognition. For many victims, including individuals, businesses, and origin-state governments, civil routes may represent the primary or only realistic route to redress.

¹ <https://www.spotlightcorruption.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/SpoC-Targeting-the-Untouchables-report.pdf>