

EXPERTISE, SPEED, FLEXIBILITY

# MANAGED SERVICES

Financial Crime

**In today's fast-evolving regulatory landscape, financial institutions face critical resource challenges.**

The need to rapidly adapt to complex financial crime threats often leads to backlogs or resourcing constraints. Maintaining robust compliance while ensuring seamless operations is a constant challenge.

Thistle Initiatives' Managed Services offers a **strategic solution for immediate access to expert financial crime teams**, delivering specialised support exactly when and where you need it.

We integrate seamlessly into your operations, protecting your business and enabling you to meet and exceed regulatory expectations without disrupting daily activities. Our flexible model combines deep regulatory expertise with practical operational experience.

## Expertise and specialisation

- **Access to industry experts:** Our team of professionals understand the intricacies and nuances of financial crime compliance.
- **Access to tools and software:** Our teams have experience in using a variety of tools and systems.
- **Access to industry best practices:** Our teams stay up to date with the latest financial crime trends and regulatory updates.

## Cost effectiveness

- **Reduced operational costs:** No need to recruit, hire or train in-house staff.
- **Predictable costs:** Organisations only pay for what they need.
- **Improved resource allocation:** Our teams can be assigned to complex projects or can augment teams for BAU support.

## Fast deployment, scalability and flexibility

- **Fast sourcing, vetting and mobilisation:** Our resources are readily available. We deployed 15+ resources in one business days.
- **Flexible pool of experts:** We can scale up and down quickly, with teams adapting to specific organisational needs.
- **Immediate access to various roles and seniorities:** Including Analysts, Investigators, Team Leads and Quality Control Checkers.

## Enhanced performance

- **Stronger compliance:** Our teams ensure adherence to local and international laws and regulatory requirements.
- **Proactive threat detection:** Our experts can effectively identify, escalate, and prevent financial crime risks.
- **Reputational safeguarding:** Our teams proactively safeguard your reputation by solving issues and mitigating risks.
- **Seamless integration:** Our teams integrate seamlessly into existing structures to enhance efficiency and output.

**CASE STUDY****'Backlog of screening alerts'****The Challenge**

A large UK Investment Platform recently implemented a new screening tool and experienced a sudden increase in alerts, resulting in a surge of over **20,000 sanctions and PEP screening alert cases, creating a significant backlog**. Facing regulatory scrutiny, the client needed to clear the backlog quickly and re-test the screening tool.

**The Solution**

Thistle rapidly deployed a team of **15 experienced professionals within one business day**. After a one-day training session, our team immediately began working on alerts and successfully cleared the entire backlog in a timely manner.

Thistle also provided a senior team leader who managed all interactions with key stakeholders and provided accurate updates on a daily basis.

**The Result**

The entire backlog was **successfully reviewed and cleared in less than three weeks**, while assisting the client in managing communications with their own clients. Our team collaborated closely with the client's core team and IT to identify and address the root causes of the backlog to support BAU volumes and prevent future backlogs.

**Are you facing an FCA review?  
Dealing with operational  
backlogs? Or simply looking to  
strengthen your financial crime  
governance and teams?**

**Contact our financial crime team  
today to learn how our flexible  
resource augmentation can  
provide the expertise you need,  
exactly when you need it.**

**OUR EXPERTS****Jessica  
Cath**

Partner, Financial Crime

Jessica is a financial crime leader, working with a range of firms from banks and wealth to FinTechs and crypto to build, scale, and assure all elements of the financial crime framework. Jess has extensive experience in financial crime transformation and remediation, as well as audits and skilled person reviews in the UK and abroad. Jess has delivered, led and scaled teams of various sizes to address immediate needs or support BAU operations.

[jessica.cath@thistleinitiatives.co.uk](mailto:jessica.cath@thistleinitiatives.co.uk)**Ilaria  
Iodice**

Senior Manager

Ilaria has a deep understanding of financial crime compliance and has provided specialist support to various organisations, from tier 1 banks to small payment firms, in the UK, EU, and internationally. Ilaria has effectively managed diverse teams, both onshore and offshore, and has led large-scale, complex projects across multiple jurisdictions. She has extensive experience in managing resources ensuring seamless execution of projects and regulatory adherence.

Prior to Thistle, she gained significant experience at various consultancy firms, including a Big4 firm, and contributed to the global monitorship involving HSBC.

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