Subject: Attendance approval request – ICA FinCrime & Banking Forum 2026

Dear [Approver's Name],

I'm writing to request approval to attend the **ICA FinCrime & Banking Forum**, taking place on **7-8 October 2026** at **1 America Square, London, EC3N 2LB**

Organised by **International Compliance Association (ICA)**, this is the only event dedicated exclusively to **senior financial crime prevention professionals working in the UK and European banking sector.** As financial crime risks become increasingly international and regulatory expectations continue to evolve across jurisdictions, the event provides a unique opportunity to engage directly with industry leaders, regulators, and peers from across the UK and European banking sector. **For organisations operating internationally, this provides valuable exposure to emerging trends, regulatory developments and practical solutions that may not yet be widely discussed within local markets.**

Financial crime risks and regulatory expectations increasingly cross borders. The Forum provides a valuable opportunity to benchmark our approach against institutions operating in different markets and regulatory environments across the UK and Europe. Attending will provide **exposure to a broad range of compliance strategies and operating models**, while also enabling the development of valuable relationships with senior financial crime professionals facing similar challenges.

As the European financial crime landscape continues to evolve, the Forum provides practical insight into key issues including **AMLA readiness**, **SEPA Instant**, **AI governance**, **sanctions and fraud risk**. The agenda also offers valuable benchmarking opportunities on topics such as SAR effectiveness, information sharing and financial crime operating models, while contributing towards my **continuing professional development (CPD).**

Delegates can also attend an optional pre-conference Masterclass on 7 October. Designed for a small group of senior practitioners, it focuses on the strategic priorities expected to shape financial crime programmes over the next 12–18 months, providing valuable insight into where the sector believes attention and investment should be focused.

Key benefits of attendance

1. **Access to a unique UK and European banking network**

   The Forum brings together more than 200 senior financial crime professionals from banks across the UK and Europe. This concentration of expertise creates a rare opportunity to engage directly with peers facing similar regulatory, operational, and strategic challenges. For organisations operating in an increasingly interconnected financial system, understanding how other institutions are responding to emerging risks and regulatory developments can provide valuable insight that is difficult to obtain through local events, publications, or virtual learning alone.

2. Cross-border insight into emerging regulatory and financial crime risks

Financial crime threats and regulatory expectations increasingly extend beyond national boundaries. The Forum provides direct access to discussions on key developments that are shaping the future of financial crime compliance across Europe and beyond, including AMLA implementation, AI governance, sanctions pressures, fraud convergence, and payment-related risk.

Attending will provide practical intelligence on how leading institutions are preparing for these changes, helping ensure our organisation remains informed, proactive, and aligned with emerging best practice.

3. Maximising the value of international travel through the Masterclass and Forum

The combination of the **pre-forum Masterclass and the main Forum** creates a comprehensive learning and networking experience that extends beyond a traditional one-day conference.

The Masterclass offers focused discussion with senior practitioners on the strategic issues expected to influence financial crime programmes over the next 12-18 months, while the Forum provides broader industry perspectives, case studies, benchmarking opportunities, and practical workshops. Together, they maximise the value of travel by delivering both strategic foresight and actionable takeaways.

4. Structured, accredited professional development

Attendance provides up to **9 CPD hours**, supporting both my professional development objectives and our organisation's commitment to maintaining regulatory competence and strong compliance standards.

The agenda includes expert-led presentations, interactive workshops, peer discussions, and panel sessions that offer practical learning directly relevant to current and future financial crime challenges.

5. Actionable insights to support our future strategy

The Forum is designed not only to explore current issues but also to help organisations prepare for the future. Through extensive benchmarking, shared learning, and discussion of emerging trends, attendees gain practical ideas that can be applied within their own organisations.

I plan to share key learnings with colleagues following the event and identify opportunities to strengthen our approach to financial crime risk management, regulatory readiness, technology adoption, and operational effectiveness as we plan for 2027 and beyond.

Event Details

- **Event:** ICA FinCrime & Banking Forum
- **Date:** 8 October 2026 (with pre-event masterclass on 7 October from 1PM)
- **Location:** 1 America Square, London, EC3N 2LB
- **Organiser:** International Compliance Association (ICA)
- **Cost:** View the event website registration form (early-bird or ICA member discounts may apply)
- **More Info:** ICA FinCrime & Banking Forum website

Attending the ICA FinCrime & Banking Forum represents a valuable opportunity to gain international perspective, benchmark our approach against leading institutions, and bring back practical insights that can help strengthen our financial crime framework and support our strategic priorities for the years ahead.

Thank you for considering this request. I'd be happy to provide more detail or discuss further.

Kind regards,
[Your Name]
[Your Job Title]
[Your Department]
[Contact Details]