

Bold Beginnings at the SFO, *New Law Journal*

Publications

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By: Lucy Blake

In her recent article for the New Law Journal, London Investigations, Compliance, and Defense Partner Lucy Blake sheds light on significant changes the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) is undergoing following Nick Ephgrave's appointment as its new Director

After years of setbacks, Ephgrave's leadership marks a potential shift in the SFO's direction. Lucy explores various elements in the piece, starting with an examination of past challenges, including systemic issues within the SFO and the collapse of high-profile prosecutions due to disclosure failings, despite successful Deferred Prosecution Agreements with the companies involved.

She then goes on to discuss future solutions and strategies for addressing these challenges. Ephgrave aims to rectify the SFO's disclosure failings through digital improvements and streamlined processes. He plans to prioritise cases with a higher chance of success and leverage new provisions under the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023 to prosecute fraud effectively, introducing new tools including the "failure to prevent" fraud offence for large companies.

In the piece Lucy concludes that, "Whether or not Ephgrave achieves all his goals, one thing seems clear: the next few years won't be dull."

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