

Caspian News release

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Money Laundering linked directly to Tyneside during The Dark Money Files Live event.

- Sell out event for financial services professional arrives in the North East for the first time
- 'Dark Money' company connections discovered on Tyneside
- LLP UK company structures continue to provide vehicles for suspicious activity

Caspian hosted the first ever Dark Money Files Live event in the North East on Thursday 27 February to an expectant and knowledgeable audience at Baltic Centre. Already a sold-out event in London, Graham Barrow and Ray Blake once again cast their expert eyes and acerbic wit over tales of 'Dark Money' that flows through our financial systems. All of which is pieced together solely from publicly available data.

Chris Brannigan, CEO of Caspian highlighted the importance of the event to the North East business sector "we're proud to be behind bringing such a thought provoking and globally challenging topic to the North East. Graham and Ray are two of the most respected financial crime experts in their field who bring to life the issues linked to money-laundering that in many cases are happening right under our noses".

Attended by leading professionals from across financial services, fintech and academia, the nights subject, 'The Crimes and Misdemeanours of the Rich and Famous', shone a light on the activities of several individuals and companies who have previously been directly named in some of the world's biggest and most recent money laundering crimes – not least among them Victor Yanukovych, former President of Ukraine who fled the country following the popular uprising in 2014.

By acquiring insights from sources including Companies House, OCCRP and Google Street View (!), Graham and Ray highlighted several eye-opening examples of the kind of suspicious conduct that may be occurring right under our noses in the UK.

One such example focused on the poor legislation that governs LLP company registrations in the UK and continues to enable people or businesses previously named in money laundering activity to be remain active as part of UK registered company activities.

They also delved into accounts records on Companies House to identify shocking inconsistencies in the financial values quoted in officially submitted accounts as compared to publicly available financial trading records. Even more astounding is that said accounts often all carry the same signatory – in this case an individual by the name of Ali Moulaye (and variations).

Their story took in an eclectic journey through a mix of notable names and destinations from Danske Bank, The Eurovision Song Contest and Heartbreak Hotel to the international jurisdictions of Nevis and Marshall Islands. The biggest shock of the night however was the identification of a small flat in the Shieldfield neighbourhood of Newcastle upon Tyne that is home to 89 UK registered companies; several of whom have directors and holding companies publicly named in recent money laundering scandals.

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In a soon to be released video series by The Dark Money Files in conjunction with Caspian, the story of how this small flat in Newcastle is linked to counterfeit cigarette production, a Ukrainian MP and a high court judge both charged with corruption and the shady events at the largest Uranium mine in Europe will be told.

The event attracted key business and political figures from across the North East and beyond including Chi Onwurah MP; John Cusack, ex Co-Chair of Wolfsberg Group and Dawn Dunn of Dynamo North East who was commented on the engagement in the room “the audience quick-fired almost too-many fantastic questions to answer; each one of them could probably have provided a topic for another full evening. A brilliantly insightful night all round”.

About Caspian

Caspian supply world leading machine learning based solutions to some of the world’s largest banks to help them automate anti-money laundering investigations at a level superior to human subject matter experts.

Based in Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, Caspian are actively investing in their growing team with available opportunities for developers and testers, data scientists, project managers, analysts, and product owners with experience and qualifications in machine learning, artificial intelligence, cloud architectures, and/or anti-money laundering.

Contact Caspian:

General enquiries: www.caspian.co.uk

Future beta programmes registration: john.atkinson@caspian.co.uk

Press enquiries: geoff.phillips@caspian.co.uk