

# The Insight Report

An Experian report - Quarter 3 preview, 2009

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# The predicted impact consumer and business financial stress will have on the public sector

The finances of the public sector are facing increasing pressure. The drive towards greater efficiency has already necessitated the need to 'do more with less', while the recessionary environment means that income streams will continue to suffer from unemployment and business failures.

This environment necessitates the requirement to develop a forward looking radar to enable both central and local government to more accurately forecast how their revenue streams will be impacted by the changing economic environment.

It also places increasing importance on existing revenue protection and the requirement to maximise the revenues by more effective management of both 'bad debt' and fraud.

Local government bodies have been largely successful in maintaining their collections rates. But with the levels of debt likely to require collecting in the future set to rise, and with little scope for throwing more people at the problem, there will be an imperative to maximise the revenues they are due. More effective and efficient debt management will be vital here, especially given that other sectors are already investing in their collections capabilities and competing hard for the limited number of pounds in the pocket.

There is also an opportunity for more effective collections to be viewed as a revenue generator. More success in collections will release previously unavailable funds for use elsewhere. We will also consider levels of fraud and those committing it in the public sector arena.

## Key Insights

This report will provide key insights into the opportunities and threats faced by the public sector. Areas of focus will include:

- Looking back to the 1990s recession; the delayed impact on public services and lessons learned
- Analysis of areas of the population that will be hit hardest by rises in unemployment and falls in disposable income in the coming years
- Predictions as to how this could re-define the fraud landscape in the UK
- Analysis of the business sectors that are under the most pressure today (and therefore represent a threat in terms of business rates and tax on company profits)
- Advice into the most effective and appropriate collections strategies.

## Key sections in the report will include:

### Part one: The future public sector debt landscape

Are local authorities braced for the lag effect of the recession? What impact will it have on public sector revenues and the delivery of public services?

### Part two: Risky business – analysis of the most and least resilient business sectors

Which parts of the private sector are most affected by the recession and how will this affect public sector revenue across the UK's regions?

### Part three: Public sector collections strategies

How can local authorities minimise and cope with future debt?

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A copy of the full report will then be sent directly to you when it becomes available in early October.

Please pass these details to any of your colleagues who are interested in receiving a copy.

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