SMF Capital

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Interim / Fractional MLRO and Head of Compliance – Payments Technology, London

Description
Location: London (hybrid)
Engagement: Interim or fractional, with a route to a permanent Head of Compliance & MLRO appointment on authorisation
Sector: Payments technology / embedded payments
Day rate: Competitive, dependent on experience

The company
Our client is a fast-growing, London-based payments technology company building embedded payment solutions for venue operators. The business is currently mid-way through its Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) Authorised Payment Institution (API) application and is looking to bring in an experienced compliance professional to lead the safeguarding and AML/CTF framework build and support the application through to authorisation.

The role
This is a hands-on, build-from-the-ground-up mandate. You will take ownership of the compliance and financial crime framework at a critical stage of the business's regulatory journey, working closely with the founder/CEO and the wider leadership team. Responsibilities include:

Leading the design and implementation of the AML/CTF framework, including risk assessments, policies and procedures
Building and embedding the safeguarding framework in line with the FCA's current safeguarding regime (PS25/12), including reconciliation, segregation and reporting processes
Acting as a key point of contact for the FCA during the API authorisation process, responding to regulator queries and supporting the application narrative
Establishing ongoing MLRO responsibilities: suspicious activity reporting, financial crime risk monitoring, and staff training
Working with acquiring and payments infrastructure partners to ensure compliance controls are reflected in operational processes
Preparing the business for life as a regulated firm post-authorisation, including governance, reporting lines and ongoing SMF16/17 obligations

Responsibilities
What we're looking for
A proven track record of taking a payments or e-money firm through FCA authorisation — API authorisation experience specifically is highly desirable
Hands-on experience of the current safeguarding regime under PS25/12, not just theoretical familiarity
Prior MLRO and/or Head of Compliance experience within a regulated payments, e-money or fintech business
Comfortable operating in a small, fast-moving team, building frameworks from scratch rather than inheriting an established function
Strong communication skills, with experience engaging directly with the FCA

Job Benefits
What's on offer
This role is being offered on an interim or fractional basis in the first instance, with a

Hiring organization
SMF Capital

Employment Type
Temporary

Beginning of employment
1st November 2026

Duration of employment
Perm

Industry
Financial Serivces

Job Location
London, South East, United KIngdom

Working Hours
9-5

Date posted
September 22, 2026

Valid through
31.10.2026

clear route to a permanent Head of Compliance & MLRO appointment once the business is authorised. Day rate or retained terms are competitive and will be discussed based on experience and the shape of engagement (fractional vs. full-time interim) that best suits both parties.