

AML Roundtable XXII 2026-2027

Agenda

First session | 17 June 2026



FOREWORD

Welcome to the first session of the Twenty-Second Series of the KPMG AML Roundtable.

As the anti-money laundering landscape continues to evolve at pace, this round's first session focuses on "AML 3.0", reflecting the transition from traditional, compliance-driven frameworks to more dynamic, intelligence-led and business-integrated AML functions.

In this session, we will explore how organisations are reimagining their AML operating models, leveraging data, tools and analytics to improve effectiveness, while remaining alert to emerging red flags and risks. Increasingly, firms are recognising that robust AML frameworks must not only protect the organisation, but also support a seamless and proportionate customer experience, striking the right balance between control, efficiency and customer expectations.

We will then shift the focus to the role of the MLRO, exploring the human dimension of the function, from influencing senior management to effectively communicating risk, driving change, and ensuring that AML remains a strategic priority across the business. Stakeholders recognise the importance of the role however we often do not invest in the non-technical skills that invariably make the difference in the effectiveness of the function.

Finally, we will also provide you with the latest insights on the regulatory developments arising from the newly established AMLA, and consider how firms can practically navigate and interpret this evolving rulebook.

We look forward to welcoming you to what promises to be an engaging and highly interactive session.

We encourage you to actively participate and share your questions by emailing kla@kpmg.com.mt. The session will be held at **Xara Lodge, Rabat**, on **Wednesday 17 June 2026**.

We look forward to welcoming you and exploring these critical topics in a stimulating discussion.



Alex Azzopardi
Partner



Ariane Azzopardi
Director

AGENDA

A discussion forum on topical AML issues for MLROs and senior executives in the financial services, corporate services and gaming industries.

08:30 – 09:00

Coffee and Registration

09:00 – 10:45

AML 3.0: Rewiring the AML Function

This session explores how AML functions are evolving beyond traditional compliance models towards more strategic, data-driven and technology-enabled frameworks.

Alex Azzopardi, Partner, Risk Consulting Advisory Services, KPMG in Malta
Alan Talbot, Director, Digital Solutions, KPMG in Malta

10:45 – 11:30

Coffee and Refreshments Break

11:30 – 12:00

The MLRO Blueprint: Beyond Technical Expertise

This session shifts the focus from frameworks to people, exploring the evolving role of the MLRO beyond technical compliance expertise.

Ariane Azzopardi, Director, Risk Consulting Advisory Services, KPMG in Malta
Leslie Janet Stephenson, Non-Executive Director

12:00 – 12:45

RTS Newsroom: Decoding AMLA's Regulatory Wave

With institutions increasingly inundated with consultation papers and draft Regulatory Technical Standards (RTS), this session provides a structured deep dive into the latest developments.

Ariane Azzopardi, Director, Risk Consulting Advisory Services, KPMG in Malta



Alex Azzopardi

Alex joined the firm in 2005 within the firm's Audit function where he specialised in the external audits of financial services entities. After 8 years, Alex moved to the Advisory function, where he assisted in the setting up of the Internal Audit Services line. Today, he leads engagements mainly focused on the provision of services in enterprise risk, corporate governance, regulatory compliance (including licensing), AML/CFT and internal audit services across the regulated financial services sectors and other non-regulated businesses. Alex is the Immediate Past Chairman of the IIA - Malta, Fellow of the MIA and a member of ISACA.



Ariane Azzopardi

Ariane is a Director within the Advisory function at KPMG in Malta and serves as the designated employee (MLRO delegate) for the firm. Ariane specialises in matters related to the Prevention of Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (PMLFT), Privacy, and Auditor Independence. With over fifteen years' experience in quality and risk management, Ariane brings expertise in regulatory compliance and risk advisory services.

In her current role, Ariane advises clients on PMLFT obligations and best practices, helping organisations strengthen their compliance frameworks and mitigate financial crime risks. She regularly delivers sessions on PMLFT at KPMG roundtables and industry seminars. Ariane also chairs the PMLFT sub-committee at the Malta Institute of Accountants and is a committee member of the PMLFT sub-committee at the Institute of Financial Services Practitioners.



Alan Talbot

Alan joined KPMG in 2024, bringing with him over 25 years of experience in leading teams through extremely complex and highly paced transformations. His tenures in senior capacities in financial services, aviation, and consultancy have allowed him the opportunity to hone his innate skills in finding holistic solutions, which are customer centric and add value to all stakeholders. His involvement and delivery of varied scaled projects on a multi-industry and international level have further enriched his capabilities in providing wide arching solutions that are dynamic and change immersive. He has led teams of varying strengths and capabilities, built agile functions, overhauled technical operations, and introduced an array of innovative technologies all throughout his tenures, enabling organisations to evolve.

His focus on value driven initiatives, and investment in people who sustain and contribute to the value generation process, have always been a catalyst for seeking solutions that are specific, suitable, and sustainable. One of his strongest traits is to navigate the course of transposing the business requirement to a technical one, and inversely ensure that any technical solution is the applicable enabler to any commercial or operational function. This skill, coupled with the innate predisposition to embrace change, ensures that Alan defines long lasting, applicable, and relevant solutions. In a highly competitive and demanding environment, marked by constant change and ever important sustainability consciousness, Alan positions the business requirement as the core driver for value delivery. Through his focus and persistence on ensuring the right applicability and sustainability of solutions, Alan provides his customers with the tools and innovative techniques to address current and future challenges that are enabled through the targeted adoption of the right solutions.



Leslie Janet Stephenson

Leslie has over 30 years of experience across the international banking and insurance sectors. She spent more than 15 years at HSBC, working across Asia-Pacific, the Middle East, the UK and Europe, where she developed deep expertise in strategic regulatory and risk transformation, corporate governance, and operations management in both emerging and mature markets.

Prior to joining HSBC, Leslie held a range of senior leadership roles in Canada and the United States at leading insurance firms, with responsibilities spanning distribution, operations, and new product development.

Leslie is a fully qualified board director and currently serves on the boards of APS Bank Plc and Zarattini International Ltd. She also chairs the Octopus Energy Generation Conflicts Committee.

She holds a BA and an MBA from the University of Western Ontario and is enrolled in the FINTECH Circle Board Programme.





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