

Compliance & Risk

Volume 10 Issue 4

July/August 2021

Headlines

- Southern Water fined a record £90m for dumping sewage into sea, p.17
- FCA publishes new business plan for 2021/2022, p.18
- Met seizes £180m of bitcoin in money laundering investigation, p.19

Contents

The UK Online Safety Bill Part 1: Is your online service and user content within scope? 2

Vaccination status and office re-openings: a match made in heaven or a cloud to a silver lining? 6

Automating asset management can help to maintain regulatory compliance and reduce risk 10

News & Views 15

Crypto heist hackers rake in \$600m of digital assets

The makers of Poly Network, a "DeFi" or decentralised finance platform that works across blockchains, reported on 10 August 2021 that hackers had absconded with about \$600m worth of cryptocurrencies making it one of the largest heists to target the growing digital asset industry.

In what comes as a huge blow to supporters of decentralised finance, currently a rapidly expanding sector of the booming market in cryptocurrencies, the hackers are said to have exploited a vulnerability in Poly Network's system and taken

thousands of crypto tokens. Poly allows users to swap cryptocurrency tokens across different blockchains. The company said a vulnerability in its system allowed the attackers to transfer these tokens to public blockchain addresses they controlled. The hackers stole about \$267m of Ether, \$252m of Binance coins, and \$85 million in USDC tokens.

The team behind Poly Network wrote an open letter to the hackers asking them to return the hacked assets. The finance platform's statement admitted that the

amount of money stolen made the hack "the biggest one in defi history", meaning that law enforcement in any country "will regard this as a major economic crime". The letter ended with a request to the hackers to contact Poly Network "to work out a solution".

Poly Network also published the hackers' blockchain addresses and asked digital asset exchanges and miners to block any tokens coming from them, which slowed down the transfer of the stolen assets but did not

[\(Continued on page 15\)](#)

Google fined €500m by French competition authority in copyright row

France's competition authority imposed a €500m fine on online platform Google in July 2021 for failing to comply with the regulator's orders on how to conduct talks with the country's news publishers in a row over copyright.

In 2019, France became the first EU country to put a new Digital Copyright Directive into law and, in 2020, the French competition regulator ordered that

Google must negotiate deals with news organisations to allow it to publish extracts of articles in search results, news and other services.

As a result, Google decided it would not show content from EU publishers in France, on services like search and news, unless publishers agreed to let them do so free of charge. News organisations felt this was an

abuse of Google's market power, and two organisations, representing press publishers and Agence France-Presse (AFP), complained to the competition authority.

Handing down the €500m penalty, the regulator accused Google of not taking the order to deal with the copyright issues seriously, and said that the online giant had failed

[\(Continued on page 15\)](#)