



ANNUAL REPORT ON WHISTLEBLOWING DISCLOSURES 2019-2020

This report is made in accordance with the Prescribed Persons (Reports on Disclosures of Information) Regulations 2017.

The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) tackles the top tier of serious or complex fraud, bribery and corruption. We investigate and prosecute a small number of large economic crime cases and use our statutory powers to recover the proceeds of such crime. It is our aim to do so fairly and effectively and this includes treating victims, witnesses and whistleblowers with dignity and respect.

The Director of the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) is a 'prescribed person' for the purpose of whistleblowing legislation and is required to publish an annual report concerning the number of whistleblowing disclosures made by workers about their employers. To meet the criteria for inclusion in the report the disclosure must be a qualifying disclosure. This means:

- the worker reasonably believes that the information disclosed is substantially true and the relevant failure relates to serious or complex fraud (including bribery and corruption), civil recovery of the proceeds of crime, civil recovery investigations or disclosure orders in relation to confiscation investigations; and



The SFO's standard policy is to treat whistleblowing disclosures in confidence. Those who wish to report wrongdoing relating to matters falling within the SFO's remit may do so via our online [Secure Portal](#).

- the Director of the SFO reasonably believes that in the reasonable belief of the worker the disclosure is made in the public interest and tends to show a criminal offence, miscarriage of justice or other relevant failure providing that the worker does not breach legal professional privilege or commit an offence by making it.

During the period from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, the SFO Intelligence Division managed 128 whistleblowing disclosures that qualify for inclusion in this report. Of those the SFO was able to, and took further action in relation to 121 disclosures. This included sending a personalised response to the whistleblower, requesting additional information from the whistleblower, conducting further enquiries and / or making contact with partner law enforcement and regulatory agencies. In some cases where no contact details were provided it was not possible or thought reasonable to take further action.

Whistleblowers continue to provide a vital source of information to the SFO in the fight against economic crime.



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