

Our Ref: FOI2017-87

Date: July 2017

Subject: Statistics for Proceeds of Crime 2016/17

This request asked:

please could you provide the following data for the financial year 2016/17:

- *The total number of restraint orders obtained by the SFO in the course of investigations into all types of cases and the number of restraint order obtained within a two-month period of an investigation being opened.*
- *The total number of investigations opened.*
- *The total number of compensation orders obtained by the SFO in all types of cases, the total value of compensation orders obtained, and the value of payments made as compensation to victims.*

During 2016/17 the SFO:

- Obtained eight restraint orders, none of which were within 2 months of an investigation being opened.
- Opened 12 new criminal investigations.
- Obtained ten compensation orders. Detail on the value of compensation orders obtained is already published on the SFO website at <https://www.sfo.gov.uk/about-us/>. Details of the payments made in respect of compensation orders is likewise published on our website.

In relation to the information on restraint orders it is important to note that there are a range of possible operational reasons for not seeking restraint orders at the immediate outset of an investigation. These include:

- Cases where the exact role of the suspects is unclear at the start of the criminal investigation, particularly with regard to the identification of any benefit.
 - Investigations in a covert phase where crucial evidence is still being gathered.
 - Tactical considerations in cases where, even if the investigation has become overt, it is judged that the consequences of seeking and serving a RO on a suspect are undesirable.
 - Cases where the conduct has already come to light through a private internal investigation or action by a regulator, and which have then been referred to law enforcement.
 - Cases where a restraint order is not appropriate, such as where there has been civil litigation or bankruptcy proceedings.
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