

Our Ref: FOI2014-21

Date: May 2014

**Subject: Searches under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act**

This request asked:

*How many searches has the SFO carried out in the past year (April 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 to date) using its powers under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) and April 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2013, April 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2012, April 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2011?*

The SFO holds two central records of search warrants relevant to your request. One is a log of intended warrant applications under section 2 of the Criminal Justice Act 1987. The other is a record of searches carried out as part of work carried out by the Proceeds of Crime Division (POCD).

Although we can provide some information using the first of these logs, there are some differences between this and information previously published about searches carried out by the SFO. There is therefore some reason to doubt the accuracy of this log. We are working on putting this right and establishing a more robust record. The current log also does not record whether the warrants were actually applied for or granted, or whether searches were carried out after the warrant was granted.

There are no concerns about the POCD record.

The following shows the data we hold centrally for section 2 warrants:

1 April 2010 – 31 March 2011 – 39

1 April 2011 – 31 March 2012 – 0

1 April 2012 – 31 March 2013 – 8

1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014 - 26

The SFO may sometimes use other types of search warrant. As described above, the only other type for which a central record is held relates to Proceeds of Crime activities. The records for these are as follows:

- 1 April 2010 – 31 March 2011 – 14
- 1 April 2011 – 31 March 2012 – 17
- 1 April 2012 – 31 March 2013 – 8
- 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014 – 27