

Our Ref: FOI2014-27

Date: June 2014

**Subject: Celtic Energy**

This request asked:

*If the SFO will be pursuing the case against Celtic Energy after the accused were dismissed by Cardiff crown court.*

*Why the case did not make it to Southwark crown court as was expected.*

The SFO published the following information on 19<sup>th</sup> June:

"Mr Justice Hickinbottom dismissed the charge of conspiracy to defraud (there were no charges brought against the company Celtic Energy) against Eric Evans, Alan Whiteley, Frances Bodman, Richard Walters, Leighton Humphreys and Stephen Davies QC on 18 February 2014.

After carefully considering the ruling, the SFO applied to the High Court for a voluntary bill of indictment on 28 April 2014. An application for a voluntary bill of indictment is an exceptional procedure which, if the High Court consents, will allow the SFO to re-institute criminal proceedings against the individuals, notwithstanding the earlier ruling of the Crown Court. A Court of Appeal judge has now been allocated to hear the application in due course".

"The then President of the Queen's Bench Division provisionally took the view that as the case related to Wales it was in the public interest that it be heard in Wales. Following consultation with interested parties this was confirmed".

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