

Our Ref: FOI2014-077

Date: December 2014

Subject: Mutual legal assistance and overseas corruption cases

This enquiry asked several how many requests for Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) relating to corruption the SFO had received in the past four years. The SFO does not receive MLA requests directly but in appropriate cases the United Kingdom Central Authority will refer an MLA request to the SFO for execution. The data held centrally indicates that the SFO received requests for mutual legal assistance concerning bribery and corruption issues as follows:

2010 - 10 requests

2011 - 9 requests

2012 - 11 requests

2013 - 14 requests

The request also asked how many investigations the SFO is currently undertaking into overseas corruption. There are currently between 10 and 20 such investigations being undertaken by the SFO. However, SFO cases regularly concern more than one type of alleged wrongdoing (for instance, false accounting and corruption) and more than one location. The specific offences considered for charging individuals are not concluded until a charge is laid, and investigations may uncover different types of offence, or different locations, as they progress.
