

Our Ref: FOI2015-108

Date: March 2015

**Subject: Casework statistics**

This enquiry asked a number of questions which are reproduced below in italics.

*1. How many cases were under investigation from 1 April 2012 to 31 December 2014?*

77 cases were under active formal criminal investigation or in the process of being prosecuted by the SFO at some point during this period. A more detailed explanation of how the SFO works is available on the internet here: [www.sfo.gov.uk/about-us/how-we-work.aspx](http://www.sfo.gov.uk/about-us/how-we-work.aspx).

*2. In relation to those cases covered under (1):*

*(a) How many people have been charged since 1 April 2012?*

63 people were first made subject to criminal court proceedings (by charge or requisition) between 1 April 2012 and 31 December 2014. This number does not include any who were charged or requisitioned during this period, if they were already subject to court proceedings on the same case.

*(b) How many people have been convicted of a criminal offence, split between convictions by the jury and guilty pleas?*

40 people have been convicted during the period; 15 by guilty plea and 25 by a jury. The number of convictions includes defendants convicted on any charge. The number of guilty pleas includes all those who were convicted by plea even if there was a trial on other charges.

*(c) How many people have been acquitted either at the direction of the trial judge or by the jury?*

13 people were acquitted: 10 by jury; two by judge directed acquittal; and one following a hung jury, and the subsequent decision of the SFO not to retry the defendant.

In addition, six defendants had their charges dismissed by a judge prior to the beginning of a trial.

*(d) Against how many people have charges been laid and later dropped before the case was put to a jury to consider or a judge to hear a dismissal application?*

In addition to the three people mentioned in 2c (not acquitted by jury), a fourth was subject to a special procedure called *nolle prosequi*. More information regarding this

---

procedure is available online here:

[www.cps.gov.uk/legal/s\\_to\\_u/termination\\_of\\_proceedings](http://www.cps.gov.uk/legal/s_to_u/termination_of_proceedings).

The SFO does not collate centrally data about whether any individuals have had some but not all charges withdrawn.

*(e) How many cases have been discontinued before charges against any person?*

12 formal investigations were ended before any charges were brought against any person.

*(f) How many cases remain under investigation awaiting a decision either to charge or to discontinue?*

Currently there are between 30 and 40 cases under investigation awaiting a decision either to charge or to discontinue before charge.

---