

Our Ref: FOI2015-129

Date: April 2015

Subject: Confiscation orders obtained, and payments made

This request asked about the value of confiscation orders obtained by the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) in 2013-14 and 2014-15, and the total value of payments made towards confiscation orders over the same periods.

The table below shows the value of confiscation orders obtained by the SFO and the value of payments towards confiscations in each of the last two financial years.

The Crown Court makes confiscation orders following applications by the SFO and it is the court that orders confiscation and HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) who enforces the debt. The SFO also does not confiscate assets: the SFO supports Her Majesty’s Courts and Tribunal Service in its role as the enforcement organisation, wherever the SFO can add value to the work. The figures provided therefore relate to payments made in satisfaction of any outstanding order which is associated to convictions obtained by the SFO.

Payments made do not necessarily relate to the confiscation orders made in the same time period. Often ‘time to pay’ is allowed by the Court for a defendant to satisfy the order or other action may delay physical payment of an order.

The figures relating to the monies collected during the year may be subject to change. This is, in part, attributed to administrative processes which delay the formal recording of payment information being notified to the SFO. In general, payments in any specific month may not be recorded until two weeks into the following month. As a result, the collections figure may be subject to minor revisions; it may increase due to as yet unrecorded payments being made, and it may decrease due to payments recorded on the system subsequently being declined by the bank when presented.

	Confiscation orders obtained by SFO:		Payments towards confiscation orders in year
Year	Number	Value (£)	Value (£)
2013–14	21	2,900,000	1,578,000
2014–15	17	22,719,368	12,617,720