

Our Ref: FOI2015-130

Date: May 2015

**Subject: Searches**

This request asked about the number of searches carried out relating to asset recovery.

The Proceeds of Crime Division (POCD) of the SFO will carry out searches to gather evidence for a Proceeds of Crime Act investigation, but not to confiscate assets.

The following table shows the number of searches carried out by the POCD in 2013/14 and 2014/15. There is a natural ebb and flow in the numbers of warrants used by the SFO which mirrors current caseloads and the position of those cases in the lifecycle of a prosecution (initial acceptance through to the confiscation hearing and, in some cases, the subsequent enforcement of that order). The investigations which POCD undertook in the 2014/15 were those which had advanced from the previous year and consequently search action was not considered appropriate or necessary.

<b>Time period</b>	<b>Number of applications/searches</b>
1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014	27
1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015	0

The number of searches, not including POCD, carried out by the SFO for the years 2013/14 and 2014/15 are as follows:

<b>Time period</b>	<b>Number of applications/searches</b>
1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014	26
1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015	13

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