

Our Ref: FOI2016-035
FOI2016-045

Date: May 2016

Subject: Closed cases

These requests asked for information about the resources for the Forex investigation and other closed cases.

At its height, the Forex case team was made up of 27 individuals and three prosecution counsel. This number includes contractors and temporary agency staff, as well as permanent members of the SFO.

The following chambers were instructed for the purpose of the Forex investigation:

Red Lion Chambers
23 Essex Street
1 Grays Inn Square
4-5 Grays Inn Square
33 Bedford Row
5 Kings Bench Walk
One Inner Temple Lane
9 Gough Square
Three Raymond Buildings
QEB Hollis Whiteman
15 New Bridge Street
9 Bedford Row

The SFO has recorded expenditure of £2,113,215 on the Forex investigation from its commencement to close. The financial period in which Forex was closed has yet to be audited.

Certain SFO expenditure, such as that on permanent staff, and for fixed costs such as accommodation is pooled. This means that it is not generally allocated to particular cases. However, some very large SFO investigations are designated as 'blockbuster' cases. These are cases where the expected annual expenditure exceeds a certain percentage of the SFO's core budget. The SFO does record the relevant portion of the pooled costs against particular blockbuster investigations.

Forex was designated as a 'blockbuster' case in 2015/16.

Expenditure for the financial year 2015/16 was as follows (all figures are £)

Permanent Staff	457,884
Non-Permanent Staff	784,643

Accommodation	81,910
All Other Miscellaneous Costs	8,747
Fees to Counsel	272,309
IT Services & Consumables	95,566
Other Investigation Costs	86,667
Training	3,901
Subscriptions	10,204
Travel & Subsistence	20,206
Total	1,822,036

Fees to Counsel (£)

2014-15	57,726
2015-16	272,309

In the last three years, the SFO also announced the closure of an investigation relating to Autonomy. Recorded expenditure on this investigation was £73,644. It should be noted that this figure is not comparable to those provided above relating to Forex because, as explained above, certain SFO expenditure, such as that on permanent staff, and for fixed costs such as accommodation, is pooled. The SFO does record the relevant portion of the pooled costs against particular blockbuster investigations.

Forex was designated as a 'blockbuster' case in 2015/16. Autonomy was not a blockbuster case.

11 other investigations were closed without charge during the last three years. The costs relating to each are shown in the table below:

Case number	Cost (£)
1	7,856
2	0
3	10,729
4	0
5	580
6	0
7	51
8	0
9	500
10	112
11	19,481

As explained earlier, the SFO usually does not record permanent staff costs against particular investigations. The investigations with zero costs recorded are those that did not incur any cost other than that of permanent staff.
