

Our Ref: FOI2017-089

Date: 11/8/2017

Subject: Amount of prosecutions or civil claims and money collected in SFO cases

This request asked for each of the financial years from 2012/13 to 2016/17:

1. The number of criminal prosecutions against individuals or organisations the SFO has been responsible for;
2. The number of civil claims launched by the SFO against individuals or organisations;
3. The amount of money collected by the SFO in fines and penalties.

1. The number of criminal prosecutions against individuals or organisations the SFO has been responsible for (FY 2012/13 – FY 2016/17).

	2012/1 3	2013/1 4	2014/1 5	2015/1 6	2016/1 7
Number of charges brought	17	22	23	16	25

The table above sets out the total number of charges brought by the SFO each year. Please note that a company or individual can be charged more than once.

2. The number of civil claims launched by the SFO against individuals or organisations (FY 2012/13 – FY 2016/17).

It would help us if you can clarify what you mean by 'civil claims'.

As advice and assistance, you may find the following information useful:

The majority of SFO work relates to criminal law rather than civil law, however the SFO does carry out some civil recovery investigations, which may result in a Civil Recovery Order.

The SFO has announced one civil recovery investigation during the time period you have requested. Some information about this case is published at <https://www.sfo.gov.uk/cases/chad-oil/>.

If your request does refer to civil recovery orders, in line with the exemption at section 30 of the FOIA, we would neither confirm nor deny the existence of any unannounced (i.e. covert) SFO cases.

Information about civil recovery investigations in respect of older, closed SFO cases is not centrally collated. As set out in section 12 of the FOIA, we would likely not be able to gather the information within the appropriate cost limit.

3. The amount of money collected by the SFO in fines and penalties.

The SFO only obtains money in respect of costs it is awarded in court. The SFO's total income from costs awards each year is set out in the annual report and accounts at <https://www.sfo.gov.uk/publications/corporate-information/annual-reports-accounts/>.

The SFO collects financial penalties which form part of the terms a Deferred Prosecution Agreement (DPA), however, these are then transmitted to the Consolidated Fund (the Government's general bank account). DPA penalties are set out on our website at: <https://www.sfo.gov.uk/about-us/>.

All other payments connected to SFO court proceedings are made to HM Courts and Tribunals Service. You may be interested in the following types of payments:

Financial penalties following SFO court action

These are imposed by the court. Where applicable, information about penalties is noted on individual case information pages <https://www.sfo.gov.uk/our-cases/>.

Proceeds of Crime Act 2002

The SFO may seek confiscation orders against those convicted in its cases, or civil recovery orders where there is no criminal conviction. Orders obtained by the SFO and payments made in respect of SFO orders are set out on our website at <https://www.sfo.gov.uk/about-us/>. Please note that payments made under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 are not fines or penalties, but rather a disgorgement of the benefit obtained by crime.
