



United Kingdom Hydrographic Office

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Ref: FOI2014/05644

[REDACTED]

24 October 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 05 October requesting the following information:

Please send me statistical information of any fraudulent cases in the last 10 years and that include:

- 1) *Whether the frauds were committed by either internal or external perpetrators;*
- 2) *For internal cases, were they carried out by employees or white collar contractors and what types of fraud was involved, for example were there any cases of abusing the flexitime policy or back hand payments as a result of placed procurement contracts ;*
- 3) *Details of external cases (for example, were there any copyright or counterfeit of products occurrences) that were they carried out by blue collar contractors, suppliers, competitors or your Chart Distributors;*
- 4) *I would also like to know how many of the cases over the last year were pursued for either a criminal or civil legal prosecution and to what success.*
- 5) *Where cases were carried out by employees, were they subject to internal discipline procedures and/or legal prosecution;*
- 6) *Please detail how or if you create a culture in which dishonesty amongst employees is deemed to be unacceptable.*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the UKHO, and I can confirm that all the information in scope of your request is held.

1) Whether the frauds were committed by either internal or external perpetrators?

There have been nine acts of fraud against the UKHO in the last ten years, of which seven were carried out by internal perpetrators and two by external ones.

2) For internal cases, were they carried out by employees or white collar contractors and what types of fraud was involved, for example were there any cases of abusing the flexitime policy or back hand payments as a result of placed procurement?

Of the seven cases of fraud carried out by internal staff members, five were carried out by permanent staff and two by contracted staff. The attached table outlines the types of fraud involved with each case.

3) Details of external cases (for example, were there any copyright or counterfeit of products occurrences) that were they carried out by blue collar contractors, suppliers, competitors or your Chart Distributors.

Both of the two external cases of fraud were acts of copyright infringement. Both were referred to the civil courts, and in both cases, judgement was in our favour.

4) I would also like to know how many of the cases over the last year were pursued for either a criminal or civil legal prosecution and to what success.

There have been no cases of fraud within the last year.

5) Where cases were carried out by employees, were they subject to internal discipline procedures and/or legal prosecution?

The perpetrators of all seven internal cases were subject to internal discipline procedures. Of these, two were subject to prosecution, although one was subsequently dropped following medical advice.

6) Please detail how or if you create a culture in which dishonesty amongst employees is deemed to be unacceptable.

We actively create a culture of zero tolerance to fraud. This is achieved through a number of measures;

- We hold mandatory training for all staff and contractors every 18 months to 2 years to make them aware of our zero tolerance and to remind them of the need to be aware of the risks of fraud and what to do if they suspect fraud is being committed.
- There is information on our intranet advising staff what to do if they suspect fraud has occurred, what to do if fraud is reported to them as a line manager, advising the UKHO policy on fraud and bribery, providing guidance on the prevention of fraud and corruption, and providing a link to the MOD Fraud Defence web site.
- We regularly communicate to staff and remind them of their responsibilities and what actions are open to them if they suspect fraud. We also take the opportunity to inform them of actions taken against individuals who have been found guilty of fraud.
- We have robust financial controls and segregation of duties that are audited both internally and externally at least annually and have over recent years given us a high level of assurance that they are operating effectively.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

