



Attorney
General's
Office

Minutes

Meeting: Serious Fraud Office (SFO) Ministerial Strategic Board (MSB)

Date: 9 May 2019

Board members:

- Attorney General, Geoffrey Cox QC MP (AG) – Chair
- Solicitor General, Robert Buckland QC MP (SG)
- Director of the SFO, Lisa Osofsky (LO)
- Director General of the AGO, Rowena Collins Rice (RCR)
- SFO Chief Operating Officer, Mark Thompson (MT)
- SFO Non-Executive Director, Tony Osbaldiston (Apologies received)

Secretary:

- Director of the AGO, Shehzad Charania (SC)

By invitation:

- HMCPSI Chief Inspector, Kevin McGinty (KM)

Item 1 – Performance Update

1. The Board reviewed the performance dashboard and discussed emerging trends.
2. Areas of focus included confiscation; international assistance and EU Exit; and staffing.
3. It was recognised that the SFO conviction rate would be affected by individual cases due to the small volume of cases prosecuted in any one period.
4. The successful use of the new powers under the Criminal Finances Act was noted. LO also confirmed that the SFO were supporting the Asset Recovery Plan.

Item 2 – Finance

5. The Board reviewed SFO financial performance.
6. The under-spend for 2018-19 was noted but was less than 2017-18.

Item 3 – Spending Review

7. The Board reviewed potential risks to SFO budget and agreed an approach to planning for the Spending Review.

Item 4 – Domestic Strategic Engagement

8. It was noted that the work of the SFO impacts on a number of cross Government interests. At the last MSB, the Board discussed the SFO engagement across government and wider on key domestic agendas impacting the business of the SFO, with the objective of building on the SFO's domestic reputation. Following that meeting, the SFO published its strategic plan for 2019-2022 which included commitment to:

- Collaborate with the National Economic Crime Centre, and other law enforcement and intelligence partners at home and overseas.
- Work with the Court Service and other CJS partners to deliver a better service for all.
- Inform, advise and contribute to relevant legislative reforms, government strategies, priorities and initiatives.
- Enhance engagement with parliamentarians and senior Whitehall officials to build understanding of the work of the SFO and our role in tackling serious economic crime.

Item 5 – Any Other Business

9. The Board received an update on SFO on Communications activity over the last quarter. Further, the Board reiterated its commitment to the Communications MoU.