

**Reference: 2024-021**

Thank you for your email in which you requested the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA):

**Please confirm how many individuals have left the SFO's employment since 1 September 2023 to date.**

**Of these individuals, please confirm how many of them have received, or will receive a settlement, severance or any other exit payment upon leaving the SFO. If the answer is one or more, please confirm how much was or will be paid to each individual as part of that settlement, severance or any other exit payment. Please also confirm whether they retain entitlement to their civil service pension.**

**Response**

I can confirm that the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) holds the information you have requested. You will be able to find information of this type organised by financial year on the SFO website in our Annual Reports and Accounts (ARA) up until April 2023.

In relation to the specific information that you have requested from 1 September 2023, this has not yet been published, at the time of writing, and is therefore exempt by virtue of Section 22 (1)(a) of the FOIA. This section reads as follows:

*Information is exempt if — (a) the information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not).*

**How the exemption is engaged**

Section 22 exempts the immediate release of information when it is planned for future publication. The information you have requested is currently being prepared for publication, and will be available in due course, therefore it is exempt under section 22 of the FOIA.

**Public interest test**

Section 22 is a qualified exemption and requires consideration of the public interest in order for the exemption to be maintained. More information about exemptions, the precedent effect and the public interest test is available on the ICO's website at [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk).

We recognise the public interest in the rate of staff leaving the SFO and the costs related to these figures. We understand the importance of transparency and publicising how the organisation spends public money in meeting this public interest.

However, as explained above, the SFO takes steps to meet this by annually publishing these figures in the ARA, and the information requested for the financial year 2023-2024 is currently being processed. In addition, the public interest in releasing this information in response to individual FOI requests is ultimately outweighed by the public interest in releasing it consistently and in full.