

Reference: 2024-042

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

- 1. What was the average length of time (in days) between a defendant's first appearance and their subsequent trial date for SFO cases that went to trial for each year between 2021 and 2023?**
- 2. How many SFO cases that went to trial for each year between 2021 and 2023 were rescheduled from their original trial date owing to constraints on the availability of a courtroom or trial judge at Southwark Crown Court?**
- 3. How many SFO trials for each year between 2021 and 2023 involved a High Court judge sitting as the trial judge?**

Response

Please see below our response to your questions in the order asked.

Question 1

SFO cases often have multiple defendants at trial for a single case. We have used the defendant date of charge, which is in some circumstances, but not always, the date of the first appearance.

Year	Avg Days
2021	694
2022	726
2023	1,007

Question 2 & 3

The SFO does not hold responsive information in the format you have requested.