

**Reference: 2024-053**

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

**I am seeking information on the number of whistleblower reports made to the SFO in the period 2023 - 2024. I can see from your annual report there were 1300 intelligence referrals but nothing on WB's unlike previous years. I can see that between 2018 - 2023 the WB reports have increased from 102 to 250.**

**Response**

We publish whistleblower information by the end of September each year. For previous years, you may find this information here:

<https://www.sfo.gov.uk/publications/information-victims-witnesses-whistleblowers/#whistleblowers>

The information you have requested in relation to the 2023-24 financial year has not yet been published and is exempt by virtue of Section 22 (1)(a) of the FOIA. This section reads as follows:

*Section 22 (1): 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.

**The 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 regularly publishing information about whistleblowers. 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 on our website, which can be accessed on this page: <https://www.sfo.gov.uk/publications/information-victims-witnesses-whistleblowers/#whistleblowers>. 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 FOIA requests is ultimately outweighed by the public interest in releasing it consistently and in full.