

Reference: 2025-045

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

Please provide the complete staff structure of your organisation (including MP's, ministers etc). This must include every specific job title and the number of people employed under that particular job title, organised by Directorate, Department and Team. You may also include the reporting job title (line manager) to show a hierarchal structure. Any information explaining the relevant responsibilities of each job title would be appreciated, however this is not mandatory.

Response

I can confirm that the SFO does hold the information you have requested. Please see the attached SFO organogram with some of the information you have requested.

We have redacted this organogram by virtue of section 30(1) of the FOIA, which provides that:

(1) Information held by a public authority is exempt information if it has at any time been held by the authority for the purposes of—

(a) any investigation which the public authority has a duty to conduct with a view to it being ascertained—

(i) whether a person should be charged with an offence, or

(ii) whether a person charged with an offence is guilty of it,

(b) any investigation which is conducted by the authority and in the circumstances may lead to a decision by the authority to institute criminal proceedings which the authority has power to conduct, or

(c) any criminal proceedings which the authority has power to conduct.

How the exemption is engaged

Section 30(1) exempts any information held by a public authority if it is held for the purposes of any investigation which is conducted or any criminal proceedings which the authority has power to conduct.

By releasing detailed information about the case teams within the operational divisions, this could prejudice the SFO's law enforcement function, providing in depth information about the cases which are being investigated – including covert cases – and reveal the operational capacity of the department. This would impact our ability to perform our key function for the general public.

Public interest test

It is recognised that there is a general public interest in publicising the work of the SFO, so that the public knows that serious fraud, bribery, and corruption are being investigated and prosecuted effectively. The SFO takes steps to meet this interest by publishing casework information on its website where appropriate.

However, it is also recognised that it is in the public interest to safeguard the investigatory process and that investigating bodies should be afforded the space to determine the course

of any investigation. To release the information you have requested would, for the reasons outlined, be likely to prejudice the SFO's conduct of our criminal investigations and ability to tackle and prevent serious crime. This would not be in the public interest as the right of access to information should not undermine the investigation and prosecution of criminal matters.

For more detailed information about the SFO structure, you may find this in our Annual Reports and Accounts (ARA) here: [Annual Report & Accounts 2023-24 - GOV.UK](#). For information from previous years, please visit the National Archive website: [Archive Timeline - UK Government Web Archive](#).

In addition to the redactions on this document, any further information than that which is held – including an in-depth breakdown of the staff structure of the entire organisation – is exempt by virtue of section 40(2).

Section 40(2) states that personal data which is not the personal data of the requester (i.e. third-party personal data) should not be disclosed if this would contravene the data protection principles. This would constitute a breach of the first data protection principle outlined in the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which states that “personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject”.

We maintain that releasing information about individual members of staff to the world at large could not reasonably be interpreted as “fair” processing because the Data Subject would have a reasonable expectation that their personal data would not be disclosed in this way.

This matter was recently tested at the High Court, which found that redactions of junior civil servants must be maintained. Please see detail of this judgment here: [Cox v ICO & HO](#).

Section 40(2) of the FOIA is an absolute exemption and we are therefore not required to consider the public interest in releasing the information requested.

