

Reference: 2025-087

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

1. Use of Security Seals

Does the Serious Fraud Office (SFO), or any of its operational units, use tamper-evident security seals—such as pull-tight seals, anchor seals with wire, twister seals with wire, or security sticker seals—for securing evidence bags, containers, document storage units, or other operational assets?

2. Procurement Method

Are these security seals procured through local arrangements within SFO teams or offices, or via a central procurement process (for example, through SFO's Procurement function or a Crown Commercial Service framework)?

3. Technical Specifications

Does your department apply any technical specifications or standard categories when procuring security seals? If providing the actual documentation is not possible due to security or operational sensitivity, please confirm whether such specifications exist and provide a general description of their nature (e.g. tamper-evident, single-use, high-security classification).

4. Usage and Recent Purchase

Please indicate the approximate frequency of use of these security seals and the date of the most recent purchase, if this information is held.

5. Responsible Unit

Please confirm which team, unit, or division within SFO (for example, Evidence Management, Compliance, or Procurement) is responsible for the procurement of security seals.

Response

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

Questions 1 – Use of Security Seals

The SFO does use tamper-evident security seals, specifically single-use, pull-tight seals, which are used very sparingly.

Question 2 – Procurement Method

Security seals are procured through local arrangements.

Question 3 – Technical Specifications

The SFO uses single-use, pull-tight seals that feature tamper-evident properties.

Question 4 – Usage and Recent Purchase

The approximate frequency of use is between 10 and 100 seals per year. We have not placed any orders in the last few years due to existing stock levels.

Question 5 – Responsible Unit

All procurement activities are managed by our Commercial Team.