

Reference: 2025-089

Thank you for your email in which you sent the following request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). I note that much your request seeks answers to questions, outside the scope of FOIA, rather than requests for information held by the SFO.

Your request is as follows:

Under the Freedom of Information Act I am seeking information about any investigation by the Serious Fraud Office (or any partner agency) on former members of the SFO being placed under surveillance by external (non-UK government) agencies and/or companies from 2019 to present. Specifically, I request:

- 1. Names of individual(s) and/or company(ies) that conducted the surveillance**
- 2. What the purpose and intention of the surveillance was**
- 3. The duration of the surveillance**
- 4. What information was collected**
- 5. How long have the SFO known about former members of the SFO being placed under surveillance**
- 6. What lengths the SFO went to, to protect the subject(s) of the surveillance**
- 7. What risk analysis was done on the threat to those under surveillance**
- 8. The rationale behind the decision not to inform those under surveillance**
- 9. The SFO's policy on duty of care to former employees**
- 10. Any other information germane to the spirit of the request, not specifically covered above**

Response**Questions 1 to 4**

To the extent that these are requests for information held by the SFO within the scope of FOIA, the SFO does not hold information responsive to them beyond the information set out in a publicly available report in the Guardian on 10 August 2025 ("**the Guardian report**"); see: [Revealed: oligarchs spied on UK lawyers who ran Serious Fraud Office cases | Surveillance | The Guardian](#).

Questions 5 to 8

To the extent that these requests could be regarded as requests for information held by the SFO within the scope of FOIA, I can confirm that the SFO holds information to the effect that the SFO was made aware that the Guardian would publish the Guardian report, and made aware of the information in that report, around two weeks before it was published, on 28 July 2025. As you acknowledge, the individuals referred to in the Guardian report were not members of the SFO at the time of the reported surveillance.

Question 9

The SFO does not hold information on a "policy on duty of care to former employees".

Question 10

We do not consider this a request for information held by the SFO within the scope of FOIA.