

Reference: 2026-002

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

- 1. How many investigations did the SFO close due to ceding jurisdiction to an overseas authority in 2023?**
- 2. How many investigations did the SFO close due to ceding jurisdiction to an overseas authority in 2024?**

Response

Please see below our response to your request.

Question 1

None.

Question 2

In this year, we made a decision to disclose this information in one case, details of which you can see here: [SFO leaves Bombardier investigation to “best placed” Canada and US - Global Investigations Review](#). For information that has not been publicised, we confirm that we hold this information. However, this is exempt from release under section 31(1) of the FOIA.

Section 31(1)(a), (b), and (c) provides that:

Information which is not exempt information by virtue of section 30 is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice—

- (a) the prevention or detection of crime,*
- (b) the apprehension or prosecution of offenders,*
- (c) the administration of justice:*

How the exemption is engaged

As a law enforcement agency, the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) holds highly sensitive information which is of interest to others, including those we investigate. Disclosing information about cases that we investigated and later closed would provide potential criminals with intelligence about the SFO's operational work that could be exploited to target our systems, thereby prejudicing the interests at (a) (b) and (c) above.

Public interest test

Sections 31(a), (b), and (c) are qualified exemptions and require consideration of whether, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in exempting this data outweighs the public interest in disclosing it. More information about exemptions in general and the public interest test is available on the ICO's website at www.ico.org.uk.

It is recognised that there is a general public interest in publicising information about the SFO, so that the public knows that serious fraud, bribery, and corruption are being investigated and prosecuted effectively, and so that the public can be reassured about the general conduct of our organisation and how public money is spent.

However, having considered the public interest in releasing this information, we consider that the stronger interest lies in maintaining these exemptions of the FOIA. Primarily, the risk that this information could pose to the SFO's operational work against which it is essential to safeguard given the highly sensitive nature of the information held as a law enforcement agency. Releasing sensitive information regarding our investigations risk compromising the SFO's ability to provide and maintain data security for the cases at pre-investigation, investigation, prosecution stages and beyond.

Having considered the opposing arguments, I believe that the stronger public interest lies in exempting the information from release.