

**Reference: 2026-019**

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

**Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, could I kindly request the costs of your investigation and prosecution of three individuals in the London Mining PLC case.**

**To be clear, could you please:**

- **Include the cost of staff time**
- **As well as cost of external counsel**
- **If appropriate, include other costs, such as hiring external experts.**

### **Response**

The information you have requested is exempt by virtue of Section 22 (1)(a) of the FOIA. This section provides that:

*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. As per the SFO's Publication Scheme: [SFO publication scheme - GOV.UK](#), we will be publishing criminal case costs as part of this scheme. 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. For further information, please visit our case costs page: [Criminal Case Costs - GOV.UK](#).

### **Public interest test**

Section 22 is a qualified exemption and requires consideration of the public interest for the exemption to be maintained. We recognise there is a public interest in transparency regarding how the SFO spends public money to carry out its law enforcement activity. We take steps to meet this interest by publishing comprehensive data annually in [the SFO Annual Report and Accounts](#), and we continue to update the kinds of information we publish in line with the requests we receive.

However, we consider that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure. Case cost information will be published in due course via our Publication Scheme, when complete and accurate figures will be available. Releasing partial or provisional data ahead of the formal publication process could lead to confusion or misinterpretation. There is also public interest in ensuring that official statistics and financial data are released consistently, in context, and following appropriate verification.

More information about exemptions, the precedent effect, and the public interest test is available on the ICO's website: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk).