

Reference: 2026-052

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

I understand that the SFO has the power to compel individuals to participate in interviews under section 2 of the Criminal Justice Act 1987

Please provide the following information:

- 1. The number of interviews conducted under this power, in each year since 2015.**
- 2. The number of investigations in which one or more interview was conducted under this power, in each year since 2015 (where the year corresponds to the date of the interview, rather than to the initiation or conclusion of the investigation).**
- 3. If the information above can be categorised by type of investigation or the role of interview subject (e.g. witness, suspect or function) please provide the information in (1) above categorised as such. If it cannot, please disregard this part of the request (3).**

Response

Before reviewing the data, please take note of the following points:

- The figures are based on the number of completed interviews. Some interviews may have taken place over multiple days; however, each has been counted as a single interview.
- Due to their complexity, a small number of investigations consist of multiple strands; each strand is counted separately.
- Section 2 interviews within an investigation may take place across multiple years. As a result, investigations will appear in more than one reporting year. Therefore, the figures presented should not be interpreted as representing the total number of distinct investigations.
- There is the possibility that individuals may transition between roles (for example, from witness to suspect) during an investigation. The classification provided reflects their status at the time of the interview.
- There are some data quality gaps where there is incomplete data in central records. These have been marked as 'unclassified'. This is more pronounced in 2015 when the SFO implemented new central system. Centralised data on interviewee type at the time was not recorded routinely. While some of this information may exist outside of the central records, it is not held in a searchable format. Locating and extracting such data would require a manual review, involving multiple members of the SFO from various case teams. Such exercise would exceed the cost limit set out under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Question 1

Please see below table.

Year	S2 Interviews
2015	197
2016	163
2017	137
2018	178
2019	168
2020	63
2021	98
2022	82
2023	87
2024	102
2025	71

Question 2

Please see below table.

Year	Investigations with S2 Interview
2015	29
2016	29
2017	29
2018	29
2019	26
2020	18
2021	13
2022	15
2023	16
2024	11
2025	15

Question 3

Please see below table for the type of investigation or the role of interview subject.

Year	S2 Interviews	Unclassified	Witness	Suspect
2015	197	126	70	1
2016	163	22	139	2
2017	137	8	127	2
2018	178	2	175	1
2019	168	2	163	3
2020	63	1	62	0

2021	98	0	98	0
2022	82	0	82	0
2023	87	3	84	0
2024	102	1	101	0
2025	71	0	71	0