



13 February 2025

By email to: [REDACTED]

Redacted pursuant to s 9(2)
(a) OIA to protect privacy of
natural persons

Attention: [REDACTED]

Request for information - when the SFO takes over an investigation (CON0014428)

We refer to your email dated 11 January 2025 in which you requested the following information:

1. *“Does the Serious Fraud Office have a Memorandum of Understanding with New Zealand Police? If [yes], please provide a copy of the MOU or a link to where it can be found online.*
2. *Does the Serious Fraud Office have a policy in place which dictates when it takes over fraud investigations from New Zealand Police or other agencies?*
3. *If the answer to number 2 above is “yes”, what determines whether the SFO steps in and takes over an investigation? For example, is it based on the amount of the alleged fraud, the number of documents that need to be reviewed, the complexity of the bank transactions, or something else?*
 - a. *If it’s based on the amount of the alleged fraud, what is the amount that determines the SFO will take over?*
 - b. *If it’s based on the number of documents that need to be reviewed, what is the amount that determines the SFO will take over?”*

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Decision and response

The SFO has primary responsibility for investigating alleged or suspected serious or complex fraud, including bribery and corruption. We focus on a small number of cases and factors taken into account for case selection are publicly available on our website: <https://sfo.govt.nz/fraud-and-corruption/what-we-do> and <https://sfo.govt.nz/fraud-and-corruption/what-we-do/strategic-areas-of-focus>.

Section 11 of the Serious Fraud Office Act 1990 enables the SFO to assume responsibility from the New Zealand Police for investigating any case that the Director believes on reasonable grounds may involve serious or complex fraud. (See the relevant section here: [Section 11 SFO Act 1990](#).)

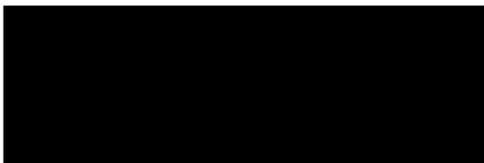
Decisions are made in accordance with the terms of our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the New Zealand Police, or on agreement with other investigating agencies. Scale and complexity are relevant considerations, but there is no minimum amount of alleged fraud that is determinative.

The SFO/Police MOU can be found on our website:

<https://sfo.govt.nz/publications/agreements-with-other-agencies>.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where there is a broader public interest. Our response to your request may be published at sfo.govt.nz, with any personal information removed.

Nāku noa, nā | Yours sincerely



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Sarah Burnett
Principal Legal Advisor – Corporate
Serious Fraud Office | Te Tari Hara Tāware

Released under the Official Information Act 1982