

Celebrating 25 years



The Serious Fraud Office is established and is one of a number of responses to the collapse of capital markets.



The 'Winebox Inquiry' is set up to investigate repeated allegations by MP Winston Peters of corruption and incompetence by the SFO and Inland Revenue. The Commission concluded in 1997 there were no grounds supporting the allegations.

20 cases being investigated, including 'Undiegate' investigation into MP and Aotearoa Television executive Tuku Morgan.

Former Auditor General and ACC boss, Jeff Chapman, is convicted of 10 charges of fraudulently using documents.

High Court decides in Jaffe v Bradshaw that compulsory interviews can be videotaped.



Ex-Citibank executive Graeme Rutherford jailed for six years and five months after defrauding five victims of \$7m to invest in a Nigerian bank scam.

American evangelist Donald Allen is prosecuted for defrauding 154 people of \$8.5 million through a South Pacific high-yield investment fraud.



Four men accused of defrauding the Auckland Regional Helicopter Trust are acquitted after an SFO investigation and prosecution.

Bridgecorp and Capital & Merchant finance companies collapse, owing a combined \$657m.

Labour announces the SFO is to be replaced by a new Organised Crime Agency but this Bill is overturned in 2008 by the newly elected National Government.

Otago District Health Board CIO, Michael Swann, is convicted of defrauding the DHB of \$16.9m and is sentenced to nine years six months' imprisonment.



New Zealand's largest-ever Ponzi scheme, Ross Asset Management, is among the 40 new cases opened – the most to date (from 465 complaints). Nine finance company cases on-going. No finance companies among new cases.

David Ross is sentenced to 10 years 10 months' imprisonment.



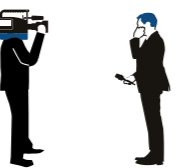
1990
The first Director Charles Sturt. First Attorney General Rt Hon David Lange followed by Hon Paul East (91-97).
Approx \$4m budget.

1992
Equiticorp founder director Allan Hawkins is sentenced to six years' imprisonment.

1994
Publically listed meat company Fortex goes into receivership. Investigation reveals extensive fraud resulting in CEO Graeme Thompson and CFO Michael Mullen being jailed.

1997
Charles Sturt stands down as Director for health reasons. Retired Judge Ron Jamieson appointed Acting Director until David Bradshaw appointed.

1998
Attorney General Rt Hon Sir Douglas Graham.



2000
Attorney General Hon. Margaret Wilson (00-04).

2004
SFO announces investigation into certain matters regarding John Tamihere and the Waipareira Trust.

2005
Attorney General Hon. Dr Michael Cullen (05-08).

2007
33 cases and 19 active prosecutions.
David Bradshaw completes 10-year term as Director, replaced by Grant Liddell.
Budget \$5.6m.

2009
Minister Hon Judith Collins (09-11). Adam Feeley appointed SFO Director.
Office moves from Duthie White Building in Mayoral Drive to 21 Queen Street.



2010
South Canterbury Finance collapses. ASB investment advisor Stephen Versalko admits \$17.7m fraud against bank clients and is jailed for six years.

2011
DataSouth goes into liquidation. Charges amounting to \$103m are laid against CEO Gavin Bennett and result in an eight-year jail term.

2012
Minister Hon Anne Tolley (12-14).
Adam Feeley resigns and Simon McArlay is appointed acting head.
Budget \$10.1m.

2013
Julie Read appointed as Director. Instigates an Expenditure Review to determine the right size for the agency, following a Performance Improvement Framework review.

2014
South Canterbury Finance director Edward Sullivan is the last of 20 individuals convicted for finance company fraud. Finance company cases completed in December.

2015
Minister Hon Michael Woodhouse.
Budget set at \$9.3m.

37
Full-time employees

91%
Conviction rate

40
Full-time employees

93%
Conviction rate

47
Full-time employees