

Andrea Ma  
By email

foirequests@hmtreasury.gov.uk  
www.gov.uk/hm-treasury

23 May 2023

Ref: FOI2023/07675

Dear Andrea Ma

### Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your enquiry of 24 April 2023, which we have considered under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOI Act).

You asked for the following information:

*"Can you provide data about the number of referrals for criminal prosecution that OFSI made for breaches of financial sanctions in recent years?"*

*I would be grateful if you could provide yearly statistics, prioritising the most recent data and working your ways backwards as far as it is allowed by the cost limit on FOI requests allowed.*

*I am interested in absolute numbers of prosecution referrals (eg, 3 referrals to the CPS in 2022/23, 4 in 2021/22, etc) and not relative measures (not "referrals to the CPS made up 3% of the enforcement action we took in 2018/19" or "for every 10 fines we levied, we also recommended 1 prosecutions")."*

Following a search of our records, we can confirm that HM Treasury does hold information within the scope of your request.

The Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation (OFSI), which is part of HM Treasury, is responsible for ensuring financial sanctions are properly understood, implemented and enforced in the United Kingdom.

We consider that the information to answer your question engages the exemption section 23(1) (information supplied by or relating to security bodies). Section 23 is a class based absolute exemption, which means that there is no requirement for public authorities to consider the public interest in disclosure of the relevant information. The information requested concerns activities directly linked to a security body listed in section 23(3) which qualifies the application of the exemption and subsequently absolves us of our duty to disclose.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us. Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Information Rights Unit

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Email: [foirequests@hmtreasury.gov.uk](mailto:foirequests@hmtreasury.gov.uk)

It would assist our review if you set out which aspects of the reply concern you and why you are dissatisfied.

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