

22/10/2015

BY EMAIL

Tel: 028 9536 3863
Email: FOI.BSO@hscni.net

Our Ref: FOI 452

Dear

Your request for information was received on September 23rd 2015 and was dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please be advised that the Business Services Organisation (BSO) has now completed its search for the information you requested with regards to investigations carried out by the Counter Fraud and Probity Service (CFPS) over the last 5 years.

Further to your request for information and subsequent telephone discussion on 6 October 2015 at 11.30 am, please find attached an extract from the Annual Fraud Return (AFR) for the financial year 2014/15 which was prepared by BSO on behalf of all Health and Social Care (HSC) organisations. This extract lists all cases that were referred to CFPS during the financial year 2014/15 where sufficient evidence was found during the investigative process to bring the case to a satisfactory conclusion.

Annex 4.7.9 of the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) publication 'Managing Public Money Northern Ireland' requires all public organisations to submit an annual return to DFP, giving details of all discovered cases of suspected and proven fraud (including attempted fraud) where public funds are involved. In preparing the AFR, CFPS adhere to the guidance from DFP which states that 'Cases that were suspected in year but have been subsequently proven to be unfounded are not included'.

In an attempt to facilitate your request in as much detail as possible but working within the time constraints set out by the Freedom of Information Act, CFPS has updated the extract to include the current and/or final position in each case where we are aware. I would ask you to note that current live cases have not been provided as these are exempt from disclosure under Section 31 of the Freedom of Information Act, Law Enforcement. This exemption is a qualified exemption and is therefore subject to the Public Interest Test. Please find attached a copy of the public interest test for your information.

As at September 30th 2015, there were 115 cases under active investigation by CFPS. Of these 115 cases, 25 have been referred to the PSNI for further examination, and 12 cases currently awaiting decision by PPS. The information provided is correct as at October 20th 2015.



We previously supplied the information you have requested in respect of previous years in December 3rd 2014, our reference FOI 117-2014. Please also find attached a copy of this for ease of reference.

CFPS may only undertake investigations on the authorisation of our HSC clients in relation to suspected/actual frauds reported.

I hope that the information provided assists you. If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter.

In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to

Administrative Services Manager,
2 Franklin Street,
Belfast,
BT2 8DQ

If, following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision making panel, you remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request, you may make a complaint under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the BSO has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act.

You can contact Information Commissioner at:

Website: www.ico.org.uk

Phone: 0303 123 1113

Email: casework@ico.org.uk

Post: Information Commissioner's Office, 3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place, Belfast, BT7 2JB

In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out. However the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Yours Sincerely,

David Bingham
Chief Executive