

SFO Investigations

Company / Individual	Last updated	Summary	Additional notes
Barclays – Qatar	26 October 2018	<p>On 15 August 2014, the SFO officially opened an investigation into "certain commercial arrangements" between Barclays Bank and Qatar Holdings in 2008. The investigation was into fees paid to Qatar's sovereign wealth fund as the bank sought to raise money to avoid government bailout.</p> <p>In June 2017, the SFO announced that Barclays plc and four former senior executives (John Varley, Roger Jenkins, Thomas Kalaris and Richard Boath) have been charged with conspiracy to commit fraud, contrary to the s.1 and s.2 of the Fraud Act 2006 and s.1(1) of the Criminal Law Act 1977, and the provision of unlawful financial assistance, contrary to s.151 of the Companies Act 1985. Trial is set for early 2019.</p> <p>In February 2018, the SFO also charged Barclays Bank plc over the loan given to the state of Qatar in 2008 but all charges against Barclays plc and Barclays Bank plc were later dismissed in May 2018. The SFO requested to have case reinstated but the High Court ruled against this in October 2018.</p> <p><i>Sources: SFO; Fieldfisher alert June 2017; SFO June 2017; SFO Feb 2018; SFO Oct 2018;</i></p>	
Tesco	1 October 2018	<p>The SFO confirmed in October 2014 it had opened a criminal investigation into the accounting practices at Tesco. In September 2016, the SFO charged three individuals with fraud by abuse of position and false accounting - the first trial began in late September 2017 but was abandoned in February 2018 after one of the defendants had a heart attack. Trial recommenced in October 2018 against Chris Bush and John Scouler but not against Carl Rogberg (former finance director).</p>	

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		<p>In April 2017, a DPA was reached between the SFO and Tesco Stores Ltd relating to historic accounting practices. The DPA concerns only the potential criminal liability of Tesco Stores Limited and does not address whether liability of any sort attaches to Tesco Plc or any employee or agent of Tesco Plc or Tesco Stores Ltd (see Corporate crime enforcement trends tracker)</p> <p>Source: SFO press release 2014; SFO press release 2016; SFO press release 2017.</p>	
F.H. Bertling Ltd	10 September 2018	<p>In May 2017, the SFO announced further charges against F.H. Bertling Ltd and individuals in relation to giving or accepting corrupt payments in relation to awarding or retaining contracts for the supply of freight forwarding services relating to a North Sea Oil exploration project known as Jasmine. The individuals involved are: Robert McNally, Georgina Ayres, Giuseppe Morreale, Stephen Emler, Christopher Lane and Peter Smith.</p> <p>Trial started September 2018.</p> <p>The SFO secured convictions against six individuals and FH Bertling in September 2017 in relation to operations in Angola. (see the Corporate crime enforcement trends tracker).</p> <p>Sources: SFO July 2016; SFO May 2017; SFO Sept 2017</p>	
Eurasian Natural Resources Corporation (ENRC)	17 August 2018	<p>The SFO has confirmed it is investigating allegations of fraud, bribery and corruption relating to the activities of the company or its subsidiaries in Kazakhstan and Africa.</p> <p>In July 2018, the SFO issued an arrest warrant for the CEO of Eurasian Resources Group, only to later have it withdrawn.</p>	

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		<p>Source: SFO case update</p> <p><i>Previous news:</i> It was reported that cash was siphoned from a workers' education fund run by ENRC to allegedly send to the son of a police chief in Kazakhstan to college in the US. This allegation is at the heart of an internal investigation at ENRC, being overseen by the SFO, although Mehmet Dalman, new chairman of ENRC, clarified in May 2012 in The Sunday Times that the SFO is not investigating the company, but had received information from a whistleblower. In January 2012, it was reported ENRC had agreed to hand over details of an internal investigation into its activities in Kazakhstan and information regarding a mine in the Democratic Republic of Congo to the SFO.</p> <p>Sources: <i>The Independent on Sunday and Daily Telegraph; The Sunday Times</i></p>	
Guralp Systems Limited	17 August 2018	<p>In August 2018, the SFO announced charges against the founder and former managing director of Guralp Systems of conspiracy to make corrupt payments contrary to s.1 of the Criminal Law Act 1977 and s.1 of the Prevention of Corruption Act 1906.</p> <p>Source: SFO press release 2018; SFO case information</p>	
Unaoil	27 June 2018	<p>The SFO is conducting an investigation into the activities of Unaoil in connection to suspected offences of bribery, corruption and money laundering. In March 2017, the High Court ruled in favour of the SFO in a judicial review brought by Unaenergy and others relating to the content of the SFO's letter of request to authorities in Monaco.</p> <p>November 2017: SFO charges two people (Ziad Akle and Basil Al Jarah) in connection with the Unaoil investigation.</p> <p>December 2017: SFO arrests two people (Paul Bond and Stephen</p>	

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		<p>Whiteley) in connection with Unaoil investigation.</p> <p>March 2018: Wood Group completes internal probe into dealings with Unaoil and hands file to investigators.</p> <p>May 2018: additional charges brought against Basil Al Jarah and Ziad Akle by the SFO.</p> <p>June 2018: SFO commenced proceedings against Unaoil Monaco SAM and Unaoil Ltd (under s.1 of Criminal Law Ac 1977 and s.1 of the Prevention of Corruption Act 1906).</p> <p>Source: SFO Unaoil cases page; <i>Scottish Mail on Sunday</i>, March 2018; SFO press release June 2018;</p>	
Ultra Electronics	19 April 2018	<p>SFO opened an investigation into Ultra Electronics in April 2018 following a self-report by Ultra.</p> <p>Source: SFO press release 2018</p>	
Chemring	18 January 2018	<p>The SFO launched an investigation into bribery, corruption and money-laundering concerns at Chemring Group and Chemring Technology Solutions Ltd in January 2018, following a self-report by CTSL.</p> <p>Source: SFO press release 2018</p>	
Formula One	27 August 2017	<p>Formula One confirmed the SFO has begun a pre-investigation into the sport following a tip-off from Damian Collins, MP. The allegations relate to the Concorde Implementation Agreement, the contract which underpins F1. News of the SFO review of material relating to Formula One initially began in April 2017.</p>	

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		<i>Sources: BBC, The Independent</i>	
British American Tobacco plc	1 August 2017	<p>The SFO announced an investigation into BAT plc on suspicions of corruption, which is thought to be related to earlier news reports of allegations of bribery in east Africa.</p> <p><i>Source: SFO; Financial Times</i></p>	
Rio Tinto	26 July 2017	<p>The SFO launched an investigation into a 2011 payment made by Rio Tinto to a consultant working on an iron ore deposit in Guinea. The company alerted the SFO, US DOJ and Australian Federal Police in November about the payment.</p> <p><i>Source: SFO; Financial Times.</i></p>	
Europcar	16 July 2017	<p>It was reported in the press that Europcar may be subject to an SFO investigation over alleged fraudulent repair costs.</p> <p><i>Source: Telegraph, July 2017</i></p>	
Alstom	22 May 2017	<p>Alstom has been under investigation by the SFO since April 2009. French officials said they opened an investigation in 2008. In March 2010, staff from the SFO raided five Alstom properties and four residential addresses on suspicion of bribery.</p> <p>Criminal charges were laid against Alstom Network UK in July 2014 relating to alleged offences taken place between 2000 and 2006 in relation to large transport projects in India, Poland and Tunisia. In December 2014, the SFO charged another Alstom subsidiary – Alstom Power Ltd – with bribing officials to secure a power contract in Lithuania. In April 2015, the SFO brought further charges against Alstom</p>	

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		<p>Network UK and employee Michael Anderson relating to alleged offences of corruption relating to the supply of trains to the Budapest Metro. Additional charges were announced against Jean-Daniel Lainé in May 2015 in connection with the Budapest Metro contract. <i>Source:</i> SFO</p> <p>The cases against Alstom Network and Alstom Power, along with individuals Robert Hallett, Graham Hill, Nicholas Reynolds, Johannes Venskus, Michael Anderson and Jean-Daniel Lainé have all been transferred to Southwark Crown Court. In March 2016, the SFO announced further charges in the Alstom Network UK investigation against Terence Watson. The first trial started in May 2017.</p> <p><i>Previous updates: 24 July 2014:</i> The SFO began criminal proceedings against Alstom Network UK Ltd (formerly Alstom International Ltd), charging the company with three offences of corruption contrary to s.1 of the Prevention of Corruption Act 1906 as well as offences of conspiracy to corrupt (s.1 Criminal Law Act 1977). <i>Sources:</i> SFO; Fieldfisher update</p> <p><i>July 2011:</i> Burgin applied for permission to apply for judicial review to challenge decisions of SFO to apply for search warrants of their homes. Application refused. <i>Sources:</i> Fieldfisher update, Burgin v Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis</p>	
Petrofac PLC	12 May 2017	<p>The SFO announced it is investigating the activities of Petrofac PLC for suspected bribery, corruption and money laundering. The investigation relates to the SFO's investigation into Unaoil.</p> <p><i>Source:</i> SFO May 2017</p>	
KBR, Inc	28 April 2017	The SFO announced it had opened an investigation into the activities of	

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		<p>KBR for suspected offences of bribery and corruption. The investigation relates to the SFO's investigation into Unaoil.</p> <p>Source: SFO April 2017</p>	
Soma Oil & Gas	14 December 2016	<p>The SFO confirmed in 2015 it had opened an investigation into SOMA Oil & Gas Holdings Ltd, SOMA Oil & Gas Exploration Limited, SOMA Management Limited in relation to allegations of corruption in Somalia following a report from a whistleblower. The investigation was subsequently closed.</p> <p>Source: SFO press release</p>	<p>Closed, insufficient evidence.</p> <p>Source: SFO, December 2016</p>
G4S & Serco	25 October 2016	<p>The SFO opened a criminal investigation into G4S and Serco and the electronic monitoring contracts in November 2013. In July 2013, the Government had asked the SFO to consider investigating G4S after an audit alleged the firms had been charging for tagging criminals who were either dead, in jail, or never tagged in the first place. It later emerged in October 2016 that a new line of inquiry was being looked at by the SFO.</p> <p>Sources: SFO press release; BBC News; Bloomberg, 25/10/2016</p>	
Airbus	8 August 2016	<p>The SFO announced in August 2016 that it had opened an investigation into allegations of fraud, bribery and corruption in the civil aviation business of Airbus group. The allegations relate to irregularities concerning third party consultants. Airbus had been in discussions with the SFO since April 2016.</p> <p>Source: SFO, FT</p>	

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Sarclad Limited	25 February 2016	<p>The SFO has charged two employees of Sarclad Ltd with bribery and corruption offences. Michael Sorby (former director) and Adrian Leek (former sales manager) were both charged with one count of conspiracy to corrupt, contrary to s.1 of Prevention of Corruption Act 1906 and one count of conspiracy to bribe under s.1 Bribery Act 2010, for offences between 2004 and 2012.</p> <p><i>Source: SFO</i></p> <p><i>Previous news:</i> It had been reported in the press towards the end of July 2015 that Sarclad was said to be considering a deferred prosecution agreement with the SFO over irregularities in the conduct of its business in a number of jurisdictions.</p> <p><i>Source: FT.com</i></p>	
Gyrus Group Limited and Olympus Corporation	10 November 2015	<p>The SFO commenced criminal proceedings against Gyrus Group Ltd, a UK subsidiary of Olympus Corporation and Olympus in September 2013, charging with offence of making a statement to an auditor which was misleading, false or deceptive, contrary to s.501 Companies Act 2006. Gyrus Group faced 4 charges, Olympus faced one charge.</p> <p>At a hearing in November 2015, the SFO offered no evidence against the companies and as such not guilty verdicts were given.</p> <p><i>Source: SFO press release</i></p>	<p>SFO offered no evidence against Olympus and Gyrus Group at a hearing on 10 November 2015.</p> <p><i>Source: SFO</i></p>
Quindell plc	5 August 2015	<p>The SFO confirmed it had opened an investigation into business and accounting practices at Quindell plc in August 2015. It had been rumoured in the press in June 2015 that the company might be subject to an SFO investigation.</p>	

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<p>GlaxoSmithKline</p>	<p>30 July 2015</p>	<p>The SFO opened an investigation into GSK plc and its subsidiaries in May 2014. No details were given as to what activities the SFO were investigating. It had been reported various press articles that the company is investigating allegations of wrongdoing in China, Jordan, Poland and Lebanon.</p> <p>In July 2015, there were fresh allegations of bribery relating to payments to doctors in Romania between 2009 and 2012.</p> <p>Sources: SFO press release; <i>The Times</i>, 28/05/2014, 30/07/2015</p>	
<p>GPT Special Project Management Ltd</p>	<p>9 July 2014</p>	<p>In October 2011 it was rumoured the SFO may investigate allegations that European defence group Airbus (at the time known as EADS) gave Saudi Arabian officials luxury cars, jewellery and briefcases of cash in an apparent attempt to smooth the passage of a £2bn communications contract. According to reports, the 'kickbacks' were exposed by whistleblower Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Foxley and involved Airbus UK subsidiary GPT Special Project Management. In August 2012, the SFO officially opened an investigation into these allegations. Sources: <i>Sunday Times</i>, Transparency International; SFO case progress</p> <p><i>Update 9 July 2014:</i> SFO made arrests and has questioned individuals in connection with this investigation into GPT. The individuals are understood to be current and former employees of GPT and MOD officials. The SFO confirmed a search warrant had been executed and arrests made. Airbus confirmed four current and former employees were recently interviewed under caution. Sources: <i>The Times</i>, <i>FT.com</i></p>	

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British Seafood Group	May 2013	<p>The Serious Fraud Office confirmed that it is investigating the affairs of the British Seafood Group which collapsed in February. A spokeswoman for the SFO told Fishupdate: "We have been asked to look into allegations of fraud and false accounting. Because the investigation is ongoing I cannot comment any further at this stage." <i>Source: FishUpdate.com</i></p>	<p>Closed, no realistic prospect of conviction. <i>Source: Undercurrent News, May 2013</i></p>
Harlequin Property	23 April 2013	<p>The SFO, with Essex police, is investigating complaints in relation to the Harlequin group, in particular on property developments in resorts in the Caribbean. The SFO are seeking information from those who have invested in the schemes.</p> <p>On 23 April, it was reported that Harlequin had filed for administration citing "unfounded negative publicity".</p> <p><i>Sources: SFO case progress; CityWire</i></p>	
Securrency International	7 December 2012	<p>More than 100 police and investigators from the SFO carried out searches at nine properties connected to Securrency International, a joint venture between the Reserve Bank of Australia and Innovia Films, a British chemicals manufacturer in October 2010. Securrency, an Australian-based company that makes polymer films used to protect banknotes, is being jointly investigated by the SFO and the Australian Federal Police. It is one of the biggest raids that the SFO has carried out and two men were arrested.</p> <p>More arrests were made in October in relation to the activities of the employees and agents of Securrency International and their alleged corrupt role in securing international polymer banknote contracts.</p>	<p>SFO charged Bill Lowther with conspiracy to corrupt in September 2011 – he was cleared of charges by a jury at Southwark in December 2012.</p>

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		<p><i>Source: SFO press release</i></p> <p>Former Securrency bosses arrested in July 2011. Federal police charged two Reserve Bank of Australia currency firms, Securrency and Note Printing Australia, along with several of the company's former senior managers with paying massive bribes to foreign officials in order to win banknote supply contracts. ... The arrests and charges marked a major milestone in Australia's biggest bribery scandal and are the first time foreign bribery laws have been used in the nation's history.</p> <p><i>Source: Sydney Morning Herald</i></p> <p><i>Latest update 7 December 2012:</i> Bill Lowther was accused of bribing the Vietnamese bank governor by paying for his son to attend Durham University in exchange for a printing contract in September 2011. A jury at Southwark Crown Court cleared Mr Lowther of conspiracy to corrupt in December 2012. <i>Source: The Northern Echo</i></p> <p><i>Update 28 October 2011:</i> Note Printing Australia and Securrency to appear before Supreme Court of Victoria on 8 November. <i>Source: The Age (Melbourne)</i></p> <p><i>Update September 16:</i> SFO charges Bill Lowther with taking part in conspiracy to help secure a university place for the son of the then governor of Vietnam's state-owned bank Le Duc Thuy. <i>Source: The Guardian</i></p> <p><i>Update September 13:</i> Former executive from Note Printing Australia (subsidiary of Reserve Bank of Australia) extradited from Germany to Australia - Christian Boillot. <i>Source: The Age (Melbourne)</i></p> <p><i>Update August 11:</i> A former Securrency executive faces charges of facilitating the largest bribe allegedly paid by the Reserve Bank</p>	

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		subsidiary to win currency contracts in Asia. Federal police allege that former Securrency sales boss Clifford John Gerathy facilitated payments of \$17.2 million to an agent in Vietnam and falsified accounts in regard to a contract in Malaysia. <i>Source: The Age (Melbourne).</i>	
Keydata Investment Services	November 2012	SFO launched investigation into Keydata in July 2009 following a referral from the FSA. The investigation was closed after the SFO concluded there was insufficient evidence to secure a prosecution. The SFO said it would then focus on tracing the assets of SLS Capital, which was controlled by controversial businessman David Elias but this investigation too has closed – the efforts made by the SFO to trace assets of SLS Capital and David Elias were not successful.	Closed, insufficient evidence. <i>Source: SFO case update</i>
A1 Grand Prix	27 February 2011	The Serious Fraud Office has started looking into companies behind the A1 Grand Prix Series – the collapsed rival to Formula One – whose creditors still claim to be owed more than £400m. <i>Source: Sunday Telegraph</i>	
De Le Rue	May 2011	Banknote printer De La Rue has contacted the Serious Fraud Office as its investigation into printing irregularities deepens. The SFO confirmed it had been contacted and said they are monitoring the situation. In May 2011 it was reported that the SFO had conducted an investigation and was still considering the matter. <i>Source: Daily Telegraph</i>	
E-Clear	February 2011	The SFO began a formal investigation into the collapse of E-Clear, the credit card processing firm, reported in May 2010. In February 2011, SFO officials said there was “insufficient evidence” to pursue a prosecution against E-Clear	Closed, insufficient evidence. <i>Source: Herald Scotland</i>

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AIG Financial Products	May 2010	An investigation into AIG Financial Products' UK operations began in 2009 but was dropped 15 months later due to insufficient evidence to bring a prosecution	Closed, insufficient evidence. <i>Source: Daily Telegraph</i>
Rio Tinto	March 2010	Rio Tinto faced a possible SFO investigation after four former executives from the UK company were convicted of bribery in China. <i>Source: Daily Telegraph</i>	