

18 December 2019

Our Ref: FOI6923

Freedom of Information: Right to know request

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act), dated 20 November 2019, for the following information:

"I seek information relating to UWOs that have been issued by the Financial Conduct Authority [from 31st January 2018 to the date of this request].

[...]

- Of the total number of issued UWOs issued by the FCA, what percentage of those UWOs were issued to individuals considered to be Politically Exposed Persons under the Proceeds of Crime Act.*
- Of the total number of issued UWOs issued by the FCA, what percentage of those UWOs have been responded to.*
- Of the total number of issued UWOs issued by the FCA, what percentage of those UWOs have led to enforcement action by the FCA, or to criminal or civil action. Please differentiate the percentage difference between FCA enforcement action, criminal action and civil action where applicable."*

Before turning to your request, I feel it may be beneficial to clarify the FCA does not issue Unexplained Wealth Orders. Such orders are, in fact, issued by the High Court on application by the FCA.

Therefore, I can confirm that the FCA has not applied for any Unexplained Wealth Orders since 31 January 2018. However, the FCA makes full use of other powers available to it under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002. For example, 39 restraint orders are currently in force against individuals who are the subject of a criminal investigation or prosecution. Those orders preserve the value of assets pending the making and satisfaction of a confiscation order.

I trust this satisfies your request. If, however, you are unhappy with this response, you have the right to request an internal review. If you wish to exercise this right you should contact the Information Disclosure Team within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you also have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe

House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF. Telephone: 01625 545 700. Website: www.ico.org.uk."