

## **SFO announces key performance indicators**

The Serious Fraud Office has significantly increased its conviction rate in cases brought before the courts in the past year.

The conviction rate, measured as defendants convicted over the number tried, has risen from 78% the previous year to 91%. At the same time the agency achieved a 100% success rate in trials where at least one defendant was convicted. The previous year this was measured at 94%.

Success in trials has been matched by the SFO's increasing ability to secure assets from fraudsters and return money to victims. Some £4 million has been paid in compensation directly to victims. The figure was significantly less than a million pounds last year. Fines against companies amounted to nearly £12 million pounds this year, having risen from zero the year before. The agency has managed to seize nearly a quarter of a million pounds in cash since November 2009, using new powers to be able to carry out searches for cash and retain the money as an investigation continues.

The SFO has begun measuring the cost of running the organisation with a view to providing value for money. Everyone in the country pays 73 pence towards the SFO's work - this compares to 83 pence last year. The SFO will aim to provide better value next year.

SFO Director, Richard Alderman said: "With reduced funding we continue to work in innovative ways. This year has seen a number of firsts for us, including the first every UK prosecution for breaching UN sanctions and use of cash seizure and other powers to return more money to victims of fraud and corruption. It has been a good year but next year we plan to do better."