

## Response

Thank you for your request relating to the information relating to the work of the Sports Betting Intelligence Unit (SBIU).

In relation to the first part of your request, we can confirm that between 1st Aug 2014 and 23rd Dec 2016 the SBIU received **53 reports** relating to allegations of football players placing bets on football matches.

It is important to note the following in relation to this data:

- This relates to players at all levels of football to which Sport Governing Body rules and regulations apply (both within GB and overseas)
- This figure relates to uncorroborated reports, rather than confirmed instances of rules breaches having occurred. It is entirely possible that following further development that a proportion of these reports remain uncorroborated.
- In general the alleged rules breaches relate to betting on any football matches, not necessarily specific to a player betting on their own team or matches in which they were involved (although this may be the case for some of the reports)

Reports will usually be shared with relevant Sports Governing Bodies as a matter of course in order to corroborate information provided. Gambling operators also have a condition attached to their licence which requires them to notify Sports Governing Bodies of suspected breaches.

I am able to confirm that the Commission does hold the specific information that relates to the remainder of your request, however due to the sensitive nature of the information I am unable to divulge any further details in relation to football reports.

In certain circumstances, the Commission will release more details on investigations where it would not compromise other ongoing or future investigations. We do not release more detailed statistics that may tip off individuals involved or make events identifiable. This information is exempt under section 30 (1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and is therefore being withheld. This is explained in the attached document.

We provide information through the Industry Statistics publication and other routes in order to inform the public and interested stakeholders about the nature of gambling in Great Britain. We have carefully considered the level to which we can disaggregate this information to provide as detailed a picture as possible. Given the number of cases that are involved, there is a risk that events or individuals will be identifiable were we to release more detailed breakdowns, either by being pieced together with information already in the public domain or by alerting those involved who have insider knowledge. This would enable those involved to take steps to alter their behaviours and avoid detection.

Given that action taken is made public by the parties involved (a recent example can be found [here](#)), it is not clear that the requested information would serve any clear public interest if it were disclosed or greatly increase the public understanding of this issue, but there would be a risk of prejudicing work undertaken in this area. There is a strong public interest in ensuring this work is as effective as possible in order to protect the integrity of sports and sports betting.

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has previously considered an appeal in relation to a request for further information relating to disaggregated betting integrity

information. The conclusion of the Commissioner in that case was that public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed disclosure of the information requested. The Information Commissioner stated that the public interest in protecting the ability of the Gambling Commission to investigate and institute criminal proceedings in respect of offences committed under the act is greater than the public interest in disclosure. You can find the Information Commissioner's decision notice at the following link: [https://ico.org.uk/media/action-weve-taken/decision-notice/2011/588322/fs\\_50310415.pdf](https://ico.org.uk/media/action-weve-taken/decision-notice/2011/588322/fs_50310415.pdf)

As of this month, the Commission will be publishing a quarterly newsletter which provides more detail of our work in this area which you may find of interest. The first of these will be released this week. You can also find additional information regarding the approach the SBIU adopts [here](#).

### **Review of the decision**

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your Freedom of Information request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to FOI Team, Gambling Commission, 4th floor, Victoria Square House, Victoria Square, Birmingham, B2 4BP.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Gambling Commission. The ICO can be contacted at: The Information Commissioners' Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

### **Request**

I am making a request for data under the Freedom Of Information Act 2000.

The information I am seeking is in relation to the work of the Gambling Commission's Sports Betting Intelligence Unit, and ***more specific than the details currently contained within the Commission's Industry Statistics publication.***

I would specifically like to know:

1. How many times the SBIU has been contacted about football players allegedly placing bets on their sport since 1 August 2014 to the 23 December 2016?
2. How many incidences of football players allegedly placing bets on their sport the SBIU has identified through its own intelligence work?
3. Of these combined totals, how many have a) resulted in no further action; b) were referred to the relevant sporting governing body ie the Football Association; c) were able to be dealt with by the Commission; d) were passed over to a criminal investigation authority ie police/NCA; or e) are still being processed and awaiting a decision?