

Key findings

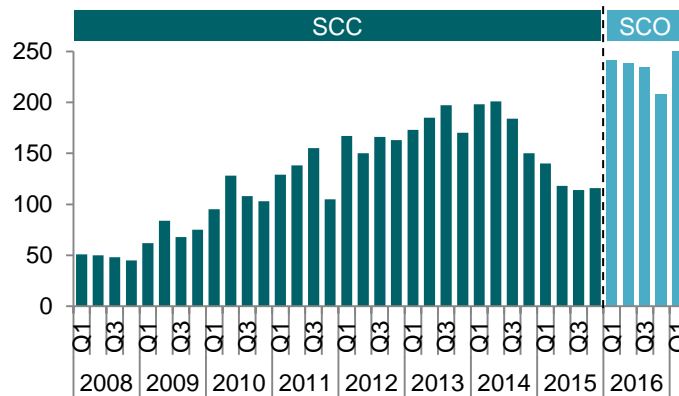
Referrals

- Applications to SCO peaked at 291 in the first quarter of 2017, up 21% on 2016 and well above levels seen prior to transition to the SCO.
- 93% of applications were considered within the remit of SCO powers.
- Referrals requests fell by 5% compared to 2016, continuing to be well below levels seen before transition.
- Around 40% of applications are for SCO investigations.

Investigations

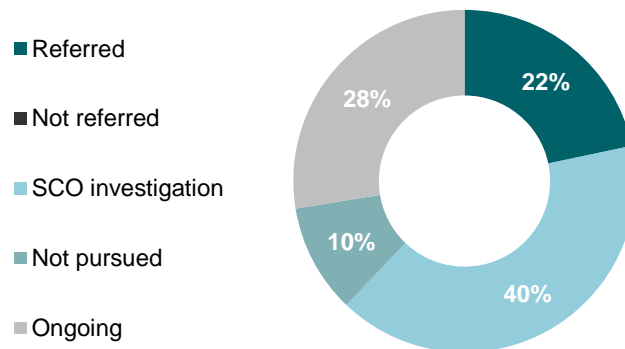
- Since transition in January 2016 the SCO received 434 requests for investigation.
- Requests for SCO investigation peaked in the first quarter of 2017 (99).
- More substance (24%) and maladministration (23%) seen in 2017, up 4 and 7 percentage points respectively on 2016.

Fig 1.1: Quarterly applications¹ received



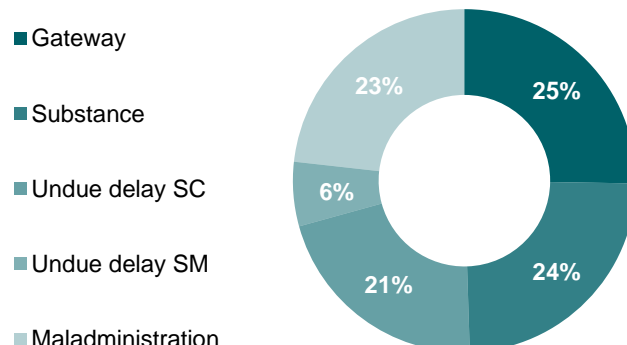
1) All contacts made to SCO includes requests within and outside of scope.
2) Since January 2016 the SCO have recorded all telephone contacts made for the first time.

Fig 1.2: Breakdown of applications (in scope), 2017



1) Excludes applications made outside of the SCO remit.

Fig 1.3: Investigation requests by type, 2017



Background

The Service Complaints Ombudsman to the Armed Forces (SCO) provides an alternate point of contact for serving personnel to raise complaints about Service life with the chain of command. SCO also provides oversight of the complaints process and reports to Parliament.

About

This factsheet presents key findings from the casework of the Office of the Service Complaints Ombudsman.

It supplements data released in the [SCO Annual Report](#)

Figures presented are **provisional** and as such are subject to later revision.

Issued by

Office of the Service Complaints Ombudsman,
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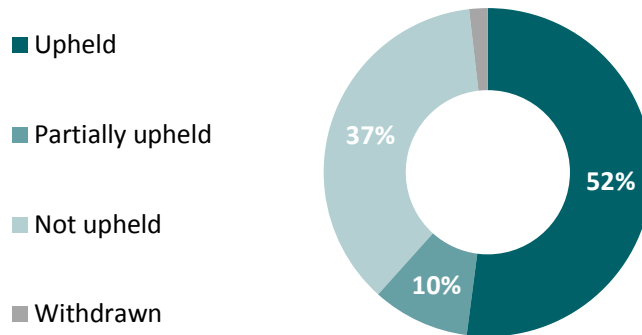
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- Where a decision has been made, 60% of all requests have been accepted by the SCO (231 cases).
- Acceptance varies by request type – lower rates in substance (4%) and maladministration cases (19%).
- Most investigations are upheld in favour of the complainant (52%)
- 75% of investigations have been completed within SCO timeliness targets.

Red flag

- At end February 2017*, there were 491 red flag complaints reported by the Service to the SCO.
- This represents a 6% increase on December 2016 – the first increase seen since April 2015.
- 'Red flag' cases peaked in 2015 and tended to fall since – down 26% on February 2016 (665).
- 57% of 'red flag' cases have been open for more than double the target period (48 weeks), up 4 percentage points on December 2016 (53%).

Fig 1.4: Investigation outcomes¹



¹) Relates to cases which were initially accepted by the SCO and have subsequently reached an outcome at the time of data extraction.

Fig 1.5: Service complaints beyond 24 week target¹

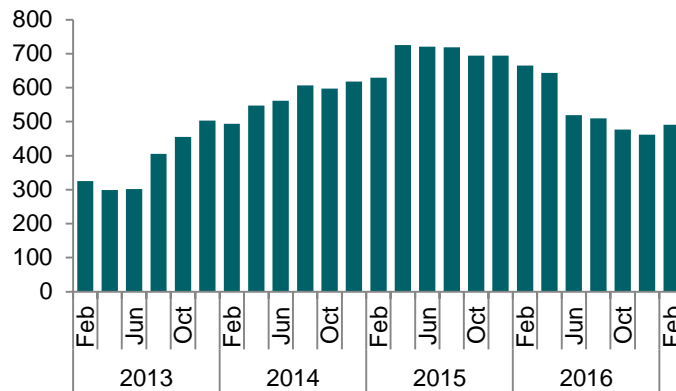
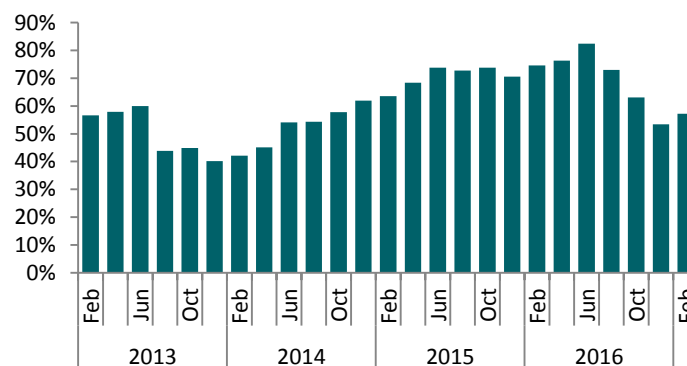


Fig 1.6: Red flag cases open for 48 weeks and over



*Red flag data for the Naval Services taken as end January 2017

Contacts and referrals

Enquiries to the SCO are known as **contacts**. Contacts which are forwarded to the Services for resolution are known as **referrals**.

Red flag

From January 2013, Services were tasked by MOD to resolve 90% of cases within a 24-week timeline. 'Red flag' cases are those which have exceeded this target.

About the data

Caseload statistics are extracted from local SCO logs as at end **March 2017**.

Data on the 24-week target are provided by Services from MOD systems. The data is true as at end **February 2017***.

These statistics are produced in the spirit of the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#)

Feedback

We welcome input on all aspects of our statistics:

- [email us here](#)