# Three arrested in £3 million bribery probe over Microsoft data centre project



Three individuals have been arrested amid a Serious Fraud Office (SFO) investigation concerning alleged bribes amounting to £3 million connected to a Microsoft data centre project in the Netherlands. The arrests followed a coordinated operation involving dawn raids on five properties across London, Kent, Surrey, and Somerset on Wednesday.

The SFO operation mainly targeted the UK infrastructure firm Blu-3 and former associates of the global construction group Mace. The investigation centres on suspected payments made by Blu-3 to associates linked with Mace in relation to the construction activities at the data centre.

In addition to the raids conducted in the UK, authorities in Monaco, with assistance from the SFO, searched premises connected to one of the suspects. The SFO deployed over 70 staff members for the operation, which included searches at four residential homes and one commercial property. The National Crime Agency is providing ongoing support for the investigation.

The Solicitor General, Lucy Rigby MP, was present during one of the arrests in North London. She stated: “Bribery undermines the values of fairness and playing by the rules, and hurts individuals, businesses and our wider economy.” Meanwhile, SFO Director Nick Ephgrave emphasised the agency’s commitment to addressing corruption, noting that the arrests demonstrated the SFO’s readiness to act “rapidly and robustly” against bribery and corruption.

It is important to note that Microsoft is not accused of any wrongdoing in the case. The investigation remains ongoing as authorities continue to examine the extent of the alleged corrupt practices linked to the data centre project. The Construction News is reporting on these developments.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

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