



Force Disclosure Unit

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext. 62005

Website: www.wiltshire.police.uk

Email: disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk

XXXXXXXXX

By email

Date: 21st March 2022

Our ref: FOI 2022/191

Reply contact name is: Abigail Standidge

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 21st February 2022, concerning Digital Forensics Unit.

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to handle all requests in a manner that is blind as to the identity and motives of the requestor. Any information released as a response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore in the public domain without caveat.

Your request for information has now been considered and I am able to respond as follows.

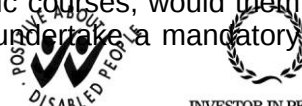
You wrote:

I appreciate some forces deliver Digital Forensic capabilities in different ways, with some 'sharing' the Digital Forensics function in a regional collaboration of Police forces – if this is the case, please can this request go to the host force Digital Forensic Unit/Cyber department?

Please could you answer the following questions – they are split in to two sections.

Basic Statistics and Training

- 1) In January 2022 how many Police Officers and Police Staff work in Digital Forensics/Cyber for you?
- 2) What are the job titles that exist in your Digital Forensic Unit/Cyber Unit? Can you please also tell me what the salary scales are for these roles? For example, one force might have Digital Forensic Technicians, Pay = Scale 5.
- 3) What is your annual budget allocation for Digital Forensics and Cyber Investigations?
- 4) Are you already ISO 17025 accredited with regards to Digital Forensics – Yes/No?
- 5) Are you working towards being ISO 17025 accredited – Yes/No?
- 6) Please can you confirm what mandatory courses new recruits are put on when they start work in Digital Forensics? For example, some forces insist on recruits going on the 'CoP Core Skills in data recovery and analysis' course. Just the names of the courses will be okay if possible.
- 7) Following on from the above Question 6 – if new recruits are put on specific courses, would them having a related degree in Digital Forensics negate the need for them to undertake a mandatory training course such as the 'CoP Core Skills in data recovery and analysis'?



Staff Welfare

- 1) Are there any mandatory periodic psychological assessments or offers of counselling for Police Staff and Police Officers involved in Digital Forensics/Cyber? This relates to staff who have to view upsetting, graphic and illegal material such as child abuse images or terrorist material.
- 2) Carrying on from the above Question 1 – if there are any psychological assessments or counselling, are they enforced and does this spend come out of a force wide budget or the Digital Forensics departmental budget?
- 3) On the subject of illegal images of children, when grading such content – are breaks away from the computer offered and enforced?
- 4) Do you have a limit on how many hours individual Police Staff and Police Officers spend grading illegal images at any one time?
- 5) Does your Digital Forensic Unit routinely attend crime scenes?
- 6) If your Digital Forensic Unit Officers and Staff attend crime scenes – do they have access to body worn video equipment?
- 7) If your Digital Forensic Unit Officers and Staff attend crime scenes – do they have access to PPE and body armour?

Our Response:

Wiltshire Police cannot provide a response to your request, as our Digital Forensics are handled by South West Forensics. Avon & Somerset Police are the host Force for SW Forensics, and therefore we do not hold the information you require.

Avon & Somerset Police will be issuing a response on behalf of all Forces covered by SW Forensics (Avon & Somerset, Devon & Cornwall, Dorset and Wiltshire).

I am satisfied that all the relevant information has been passed to me and been considered in the light of your request within the time constraints applicable under the legislation.

Wiltshire Police would like to thank you for the interest that you have shown in the Force.

Yours sincerely,

Abigail Standidge
Force Disclosure Decision Maker

Wiltshire Police offers a re-examination of your case under its review procedure.



Force Disclosure Unit
Wiltshire Police HQ, London Road, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 2DN
Telephone 101 ext 62005



Freedom of Information Request Appeals Procedure

1. Who Can Ask for a Review

Any person who has requested information from Wiltshire Police, which has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act, is entitled to complain and request an internal review, if they are dissatisfied with the response they received.

2. How to Request a Review

Requests for review of a Freedom of Information request must be made in writing to the:

Force Disclosure Unit
Wiltshire Police Headquarters,
London Road, Devizes,
Wiltshire,
SN10 2DN

Email at disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk.

The reference number, date of the request and details of why the review is being requested must be included. Requests for review should be brought to the attention of the Force Disclosure Unit within 20 working days of the Force's response to the original FoI request.

3. Review Procedure

Receipt of a request for review will be acknowledged in writing to include confirmation of the reasons for the review. The review will be conducted by another Decision Maker, who is independent from the original Decision Maker. The Force Disclosure Unit will set a target date for a response. The response will be made as soon as is practicable with the intention to complete the review within twenty working days. In more complex cases the review may take up to 40 working days.

The Independent Decision Maker will conduct a review of the handling of the request for information and of decisions taken, including decisions taken about where the public interest lies in respect of exempt information where applicable. The review enables a re-evaluation of the case, taking into account the matters raised by the complaint.

4. Conclusion of the Appeal

On completion of the review the Independent Decision Maker will reply to the complainant with the result of the review. If the complainant is still dissatisfied following the review they should contact the Information Commissioner to make an appeal. The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following details:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545 700
Fax: 01625 524 510
Email: mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk

Please note that the ICO's offices will be closed for the foreseeable future and are therefore unable to receive correspondence via post.

If you should wish you contact them, please visit <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>