



Police Headquarters
London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN
disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk

Date 6th March 2023

Our ref **FOI 2023/285**

Dear ,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 3rd March concerning digital forensic investigators.

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:

1. How many digital forensic investigators do you employ in your force?
2. What budget was provided to your force for digital forensics in the 2022 fiscal year and do you expect this to increase/decrease for 2023?
3. How many cases on average do you have awaiting digital forensic analysis each month?
4. On average, how much time is spent on digital forensics for each case?
5. How many digital forensic investigators have been signed off for work related mental health in the past year (Jan-Dec 2022)?
6. What proportion of cases are worked by individual DF investigators vs Collaborative teams of investigators working in your DFU or Collaborative teams working remotely?
7. Do you have measures in place to protect the mental health of investigators exposed to potentially traumatic images or evidence? (Yes/No)

Response:

The information you are requesting is exempt by virtue of the following exemption:
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Section 21 - Information available to the applicant by other means

The information you have requested has already been answered and is available on our website of published FOI response letters. Please use the below link:

<https://www.wiltshire.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/foi-media/wiltshire/2023/01-january-2023/02-february-2023/foi-2023-049-digital-forensics.pdf>

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Wiltshire Police, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The exemption applicable to the information requested is:

Section 21: Information available to the applicant by another means

In accordance with section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this particular request.

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

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

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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 Fol 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

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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/>