



Force Disclosure Unit

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.uk

disclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

XXXXXX – by E Mail

Date: 20th May 2025

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2025 / 478

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 9th May 2025 concerning our 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 – having consulted our Regional Forensics Team - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote (and Our Response)

I am writing to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, in relation to your force's Digital Forensics Unit.

1. Device Submissions and Backlog

a. The number of devices currently awaiting examination.

We are currently unable to extract data regarding individual exhibits at the current time. Each individual case generally carries an average of 3 exhibits.

b. As of the present day, the number of devices that have been awaiting examination for under 30 days, 30 days - 3 months, 3 – 6 months, 6 months – 1 year and 2 – 3 years, 3 – 4 years, 4 years +.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Period	Number
1 Month	37
2-3 Month	63
4 - 6 Months	29
7-12 Months	5
Over 12 Months	1
Total Cases	135

c. Your force's target turnaround time for completing forensic investigations.

- **Immediate Priority – start within 1 day**
- **High Priority – start within 1 month**
- **Medium Priority – start within 2 months**
- **Low priority – start within 3 months**

2.Staffing and Capacity

a. The number of full-time equivalent staff currently working in the DFU, broken down by role if possible.

- **2 x Managers**
- **1 x Technical Manager**
- **7 x Data Forensic Investigators**
- **5 x Mobile Device Examiners**
- **3 x Data Forensic Technicians**

b. Any vacancies or staffing shortfalls affecting the DFU in the last 12 months.

None

3.Accreditation and Quality

a. Whether your DFU is accredited to ISO/IEC 17025, and if so, for which types of digital forensic activity.

Yes, for the capture and preservation of data from Hard Drives, Solid state drives, Memory cards and USB devices.

4.Efficiency Measures

a. Whether your DFU uses triage processes or tools to prioritise devices or speed up examination.

b. Whether your force uses any form of AI or automation to support digital forensic work.

c. Whether any part of your digital forensic workload is outsourced to external providers, and if so, approximately what percentage.

d. Please disclose any regional or national forensic units you've collaborated with within the past year.

- **Triage is used for the prioritisation and identification of primary computer devices seized that need DFU examination.**
- **An examination strategy is established for all cases submitted to the DFU to ensure work conducted is proportionate and reasonable for the crime being investigated.**
- **MAGNET automate is used for case processing.**
- **AI is used to aid identification of Child Abuse Material (CSAM) on exhibits.**
- **Outsourcing is being used to help reduce backlogs. It is not possible to state a percentage. £178.6k has been allocated to outsource exhibits for the financial year 25/26.**
- **The DFU is part of a regional collaboration of forces between Avon & Somerset, Devon & Cornwall, Dorset, and Wiltshire Police Forces since 2015. This collaboration allows the sharing of demands and delivery of efficiencies across our forces through CPD, purchasing and procurement of systems and equipment and increased resilience between our teams. The DFU sits with the Scientific Services umbrella of South West Forensics and is supported through dedicated Regional Operations Managers and a Head of (DF) Department. Further collaboration occurs nationally through engagement with other police forces and the NPCC digital forensics groups. We also work with the Forensic Capability Network and utilise national support for accreditation requirements.**

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,

Nick Penny
Disclosure Decision Maker



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.pnn.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