

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.ukdisclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

XXXXXX – by E Mail

Date: 9th April 2026

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2026 / 296

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 15th March 2026 concerning Digital Forensics.

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 Digital Forensics , Policy and Criminal Justice Teams - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote (and Our Response)

To ensure this request is clear and manageable, I am asking only for information that is already recorded and held by your Digital Forensics Unit.

1. Policies or Procedures for Archiving Mobile-Device Evidence

Please provide any recorded policies, procedures, or guidance documents that describe how your Digital Forensics Unit archives mobile-device digital evidence in cold-case investigations.

If held, these may include information on:

Whether evidence is stored using the original device, a forensic image, or both.

The types of files or data normally kept (for example: full extractions, images, or generated reports).

All evidence is archived to LTO tape.**Please refer to the Backup & Archive SOP provided.**

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2. Storage Methods and Formats

Please provide any recorded information describing:

The types of storage media used to keep archived mobile-device evidence (e.g., hard drives, servers, cloud storage, etc.).

The file formats in which this evidence is stored (e.g., extraction images, exported reports, etc.).

(Only information already recorded in documents, logs, or inventories is requested.)

Please refer to the answer to Q1 above.

3. Reviews or Re-Examinations of Archived Mobile-Device Evidence

Please confirm whether statistics on re-examination activity are recorded, and if so, what information is held.

No information held.

4. Access to Older or Legacy Formats

Please provide any recorded information on whether your Digital Forensics Unit keeps older or legacy forensic software, tools, or viewers to access mobile-device evidence stored in outdated or proprietary formats.

If recorded, please also provide any documented procedures for opening or converting older evidence formats.

No information held.

5. SOPs for Reviewing Archived Evidence

Please provide any standard operating procedures (SOPs), policies, or guidance documents your Digital Forensics Unit holds that relate to the reviewing of archived mobile-device evidence in cold-case investigations.

If held, please also indicate whether these documents reference the Forensic Science Regulator's Code of Practice.

Please refer to the Backup & Archive SOP provided.

We can confirm that the Digital Forensics Unit is accredited to the Forensic Science Regulator's Code of Practice.

Please note

- There is no specific set of Procedures or Policies related specifically to “cold cases”.
- Material / evidence is saved/archived the same way irrespective of whether it relates to a live case, a closed case or an historic “cold case”.
- Certain information contained in the SOP provided has been redacted and is exempt from disclosure under Section 40 of the FOIA (covering Personal Information). Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is no requirement to undertake a public interest test or provide any rationale or explanation as to why this exemption is engaged.

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 40: Personal Information

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,

Nick Penny
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.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