



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: 22nd October 2026

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2026 / 922

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 1st October 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 Regional Forensics Team - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote (and Our Response)

For the purposes of this request, I am interested in the use of the following technologies for crime scene documentation, recording or reconstruction:

360deg or panoramic imaging

LiDAR / 3D laser scanning

Photogrammetry

Systems that combine 360deg imaging with LiDAR or other 3D scanning technologies

1. Current use

Does your force currently use any of the technologies listed above for crime scene documentation?

If yes, please state:

a) Which technology or system is used; and

b) The manufacturer and/or system name, where this information is recorded.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Other departments such as Forensic Collision Investigation have access to laser scanning but South West Forensics (SWF) holds no data in relation to their equipment or capability – No Information Held.

South West Forensics CSI's undertake 360deg imagery using Nikon Z6 cameras.

2. Availability

For each technology currently used, please state whether it is:

- a) Routinely available to all or most Crime Scene Investigators/SOCOs;
- b) Available only to a specialist CSI/forensic unit; or
- c) Accessed on an occasional or case-by-case basis.

If recorded, please also indicate approximately how long the technology has been in use.

All CSIs have had Nikon Z6 cameras since December 2024.

3. Crime type

For what types of crime, incident or crime scene are these technologies used?

For example, are they routinely used across different crime scenes or primarily for particular incidents such as homicide, serious violence, road traffic collisions, major crime scenes or other specialist investigations?

They are used wherever they add value but predominantly for major incidents such as homicide.

4. Supplementation or replacement

Where these technologies are used, do they supplement traditional forensic photography or replace any elements of existing crime scene documentation?

If they replace an existing method, please state what they have replaced.

They supplement traditional forensic photography

5. Evaluation and reviews

Has your force conducted any pilot, evaluation or review of these technologies?

If so, please provide any recorded findings relating to their benefits, limitations, costs or impact on crime scene documentation/workflow.

Our South West Forensics Unit has undertaken a review of LiDAR scanning including testing of equipment. The findings were that LiDAR provides a highly accurate digital record of a crime scene, allowing buildings, rooms, and outdoor areas to be captured for review, forensic reconstruction, and evidential presentation. Compared with traditional 360-degree photography and manual measurements, it provides a much more detailed record of the scene and preserves information that investigators may need to revisit after

the physical scene has been released. Without the capability, the region remains reliant on traditional 360 photography and manual measurements, which cannot reproduce the same level of scene detail and complexity. The review identified scope for automated workflows, tablet-based operation and automatic scan alignment as reducing operator input and the risk of error.

6. Use within your force

If your force does not currently use one or more of these technologies, has their use previously been trialled or formally considered? If so, please provide any recorded reasons for not adopting or continuing their use.

The use of LiDAR by our South West Forensics Unit has been formally considered and we are intending to introduce LiDAR scanning technology when funding allow.

If any of the requested information is not recorded or held, please simply indicate that the information is not held.

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