

Basic Statistics and Training

- 1) In January 2022 how many Police Officers and Police Staff work in Digital Forensics/Cyber for you?**

7 police Officers and 16 Police staff

- 2) What are the job titles that exist in your Digital Forensic Uni/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.**

Job Titles are Digital Forensics Officer (DFO) and Higher Digital Forensics Officer. DFO pay scale is Band 6 Higher DFO is Band 7

A copy of the current Police Staff salary scale is published on our website under the heading 'Pay and Grading Structure':

[What We Spend and How We Spend It - Freedom of Information - West Midlands Police \(west-midlands.police.uk\)](#)

In addition to this response, West Midlands Police can neither confirm nor deny that it holds any other information relevant to this request as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply by virtue of the following exemptions:

Section 23(5) - Security Bodies supplied by, or concerning, certain Security Bodies

Section 24(2) - National security

Section 31(3) - Law enforcement

Please see covering letter for further details.

- 3) What is your annual budget allocation for Digital Forensics and Cyber Investigations?**

Annual budget for purchases (not including salaries or overtime) = £283,500

- 4) Are you already ISO 17025 accredited with regards to Digital Forensics – Yes/No?**

Yes

- 5) Are you working towards being ISO 17025 accredited – Yes/No?**

N/A

- 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.**

COP CSDRA, Training CCO and CCPA

However, we are withholding some of this information by virtue of Section 31(1) – Law enforcement. Please see covering letter and PIT for further details.

- 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’?**

No, they would still be required to complete what we have set as mandatory training

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.**

All staff were sent a psychological screening paper to complete last year and recently staff have had the opportunity to attend a Mental Welfare Support Day

- 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?**

Nothing is enforced upon the staff and training was in house therefore there was no expense

- 3) **On the subject of illegal images of children, when grading such content – are breaks away from the computer offered and enforced?**

Breaks away from the computer are encouraged but not 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?**

No limits set

- 5) **Does your Digital Forensic Unit routinely attend crime scenes?**

DFU staff do attend scenes but this is on an ad hoc basis

- 6) **If your Digital Forensic Unit Officers and Staff attend crime scenes – do they have access to body worn video equipment?**

No 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?**

Police Officers have access to PPE and Body armour, but this is not a requirement for the role of DFO

NB We have interpreted this request to be asking for staff/about staff within the Digital Forensic Unit that deal with the grading of illegal images of children