

Please find my questions below. To assist you further, I wish to outline the objective of my request: To ascertain the standard that the public should expect from the WMP when handling and maintaining evidence linked to complex criminal investigations.

Questions:

1. What is the policy of the WMP in maintaining crucial evidence, notes, communications and emails related to complex criminal investigations? For example, what evidence is stored, where and how is it stored and how long it is kept for?
2. What is the policy of the WMP with regard to keeping and maintaining investigation logs related to complex criminal investigations? For example, how and where is the investigation log kept, what methods are employed, what information is recorded and how long is the log stored for?

Various policies and sets of guidance apply, in terms of record retention (including investigation logs) West Midlands Police will retain records in line with the national MOPI APP:

[Staff Homepage \(college.police.uk\)](http://college.police.uk)

An investigation log and relevant emails, etc will/ should be copied from any original platform by the officer and retained with the rest of the crime file as per the retention date guidance above.

Building on this, West Midlands Police retain all of our records according to the WMP Records Management policy:

[Records-Management.pdf \(west-midlands.police.uk\)](#)

With an additional policy and set of procedures that applies to notes in particular:

[Operational-and-Corporate-Notes.pdf \(west-midlands.police.uk\)](#)

Evidence is considered for retention separately to records (in line with CPIA legislation)- the evidence and property retention policies can be found here:

[Detained-Property.pdf \(west-midlands.police.uk\)](#)

3. Are the WMP required to follow the directions laid down by any independent external regulator or organisation who oversees police complaints and who is that?

West Midlands Police are required to handle police complaints in accordance with legislation and guidance. The Independent Office of Police Conduct is the external independent body that oversees complaints against police.