

1. How many digital forensic investigators do you employ in your force?

Data Acquisition staff x 19 Data Analysis staff (reporting) x 24.74

2. What budget was provided to your force for digital forensics in the 2022 fiscal year and do you expect this to increase/decrease for 2023?

We provide annual forecasts for courses and equipment and generally the force meets that requirement. This current year was approximately £200k for equipment and consumables, around £220k for next financial year. Training costs: Approximately £200k forecast for next year training costs and this current year was £160k although we are showing some savings due to course availability.

3. How many cases on average do you have awaiting digital forensic analysis each month?

Average submissions are around 327 devices per month with a back log of 292 cases in Data Acquisition and 280 in Reporting queue, generally standard submissions, as focus is on urgent and priority.

4. On average, how much time is spent on digital forensics for each case?

Average of 1.5 exhibits per person per day in Data Acquisition and anything from 3 days to a number of months in reporting, depending on type of report.

5. How many digital forensic investigators have been signed off for work related mental health in the past year (Jan-Dec 2022)?

None

6. What proportion of cases are worked by individual DF investigators vs Collaborative teams of investigators working in your DFU or Collaborative teams working remotely?

All done by DF staff

7. Do you have measures in place to protect the mental health of investigators exposed to potentially traumatic images or evidence? (Yes/No)

Yes