



Ministry of Defence Police

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Our Ref: eCase: FOI2016/11621 RFI: 338/16
Date: 21st December 2016

[REDACTED]
By email – [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: DETAILS OF DIGITAL FORENSICS UNIT, SOFTWARE AND CSE RELATED CRIMES INVESTIGATED.

I refer to your email dated 29th November 2016 which was acknowledged on the same date.

We are treating your email as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 2000).

In your email of the 29th November 2016 you requested the following information:

- “1. A statistical breakdown (for your digital forensics unit) of the:**
- a. number of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) related crimes investigated each year for the past 5 years.**
 - b. number (sometimes referred to as a ‘backlog’) of CSE jobs awaiting analysis (including preliminary or further specialist analysis).**
- 2. For your digital forensics unit, the name and contact details of the person(s) responsible for:**
- a. assessing the performance of digital forensics software used for investigating CSE crimes (by the digital forensics unit).**
 - b. budgeting and authorising the purchase of digital forensics software.**
 - c. assessing new digital forensics tools which have the potential to increase the quality, performance or efficiency of investigations.**
- 3. The name(s) of the digital forensics software currently used for the analysis, investigation and reporting of CSE material by the digital forensics units in each UK Police force, along with how long the software has been used by the unit, and its annual costs (detailing separately the licensing, support and training costs)”.**

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence Police and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

I have completed a public interest test and concluded that the public interest favours not releasing some of this information. I am therefore withholding some of the information (item 2 and 3) in accordance with FOI exemption Section 31(1)(a) Law enforcement and Section 40(2)(3) Personal data.

Section 31(1) Law enforcement applies because providing details of would reveal some information that would undermine the prevention or detection of crime and the administration of justice and would undermine the effectiveness of the department.

Section 40(2)(3) has been applied to the names and contact details of staff in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 1998. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

Personal data is defined under Section 1(1)(e) of the DPA98 as “data which relates to a living individual who can be identified – (a) from those data”.

1. A statistical breakdown (for your digital forensics unit) of the:

a. number of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) related crimes investigated each year for the past 5 years.

YEAR	Number of CSE related crimes
2012	2
2013	0
2014	1
2015	3
2016	3

The figure for 1a relates to those CSE reports that have been sent to Digital Forensics Unit only and may be different to the overall number of CSE crimes reported to the Ministry of Defence Police in the last 5 years.

b. number (sometimes referred to as a ‘backlog’) of CSE jobs awaiting analysis (including preliminary or further specialist analysis).

No information held. There is currently no backlog.

3. The name(s) of the digital forensics software currently used for the analysis, investigation and reporting of CSE material by the digital forensics units in each UK Police force, along with how long the software has been used by the unit, and its annual costs (detailing separately the licensing, support and training costs)

No specific information is held in regards to annual costs, licensing, support and training. The Ministry of Defence Police does not hold budget and expenditure information split down by departments (digital forensics dept.). There is an overall budget for all departments.

If you are not satisfied with this response or wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB (email CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate the case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website (<http://www.ico.org.uk>).

Yours sincerely

MDP Sec Data Protection and Freedom of Information Office