



Ministry of Defence Police

Freedom of Information Manager
Ministry of Defence Police
Palmer Pavilion,
Building 666,
RAF Wyton, Huntingdon,
Cambs, PE28 2EA

E-mail: MDP-FOI-DP@mod.gov.uk

Our Ref: eCase: FOI2023/07836

RFI: 161/23

Date: 24 July 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: DIGITAL FORENSIC EXAMINATIONS

We refer to your email dated 23 June 2023 to the Ministry of Defence Police which was acknowledged on the 26 June 2023 by The Ministry of Defence Police.

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

In your email you requested the following information:

- 1. The number of digital forensic examinations carried out by in-house, police forensic services in the past 12 months or similar reporting period**
- 2. The number of digital forensic examinations carried by outside laboratories and/or outside forensic science services in the same period**
- 3. The names of any digital forensic laboratories and/or outside forensic science services used**
- 4. The current backlog of digital forensic examinations**
- 5. The number of Forensic Science Activities, in accordance with the Forensic Science Regulator Act 2021, that you are / are not currently accredited to deliver**
- 6. The number of Forensic Science Activities completed in laboratories which are not accredited to ISO 17025**

A search for information has now been completed I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence Police does hold information in scope of your request.

- 1. The number of digital forensic examinations carried out by in-house, police forensic services in the past 12 months or similar reporting period**

0

2. The number of digital forensic examinations carried by outside laboratories and/or outside forensic science services in the same period

60

3. The names of any digital forensic laboratories and/or outside forensic science services used

Cellmark and Eurofins are used for wet/trace forensic services.

The Ministry of Defence Police is unable to release information relating to Forensic Service Providers used for digital forensics as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) does not apply by virtue of the exemption in Section 31(1)(a)(b) – Law Enforcement. This is a prejudice based qualified exemption and there is a requirement to articulate the harm that would be caused in releasing the information and carry out a public interest test. The balance of this test favours not releasing the information requested.

Section 31(1)(a)(b) is engaged as to release the information would have a detrimental impact Law Enforcement and would weaken the mechanisms used to investigate criminal activity.

4. The current backlog of digital forensic examinations

Not applicable

5. The number of Forensic Science Activities, in accordance with the Forensic Science Regulator Act 2021, that you are / are not currently accredited to deliver

0

6. The number of Forensic Science Activities completed in laboratories which are not accredited to ISO 17025

0

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk).

Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the

Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

MDP Secretariat and Freedom of Information Office