



# Ministry of Defence Police

Freedom of Information Manager  
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Our Ref: eCase: FOI 2023/14441

RFI: 251/23

Date: 22 January 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES ON EXHIBIT RECOVERY, PACKAGING, AND STORAGE**

We refer to your email dated 24 November 2023 to the Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) which was acknowledged on the 27 November 2023.

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. Please supply a copy of your force policy document(s) regarding forensic exhibit packaging including the exhibits recovery and storage.**
- 2. Please supply a copy of your mobile phone / device recovery and storage policy if this is a separate document to that requested at 1.**
- 3.**
  - i) In relation to mobile phones and devices what packaging do officers and staff use within the force to store those devices seized as evidence / for examination**
  - ii) If that packaging is a box are the devices secured within the box and if so how are they secured.**
  - iii) If boxes are used who are the manufacture(s) of the boxes**

A search for information has now been completed and I can confirm that we do hold information in scope of your request.

- 1. Please supply a copy of your force policy document(s) regarding forensic exhibit packaging including the exhibits recovery and storage.**

The Ministry of Defence Police is unable to release information relating the force policy for forensic exhibit packaging, recovery and storage. 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) – 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) is engaged as to release the information would have a detrimental impact on Law Enforcement and would weaken the mechanisms used to investigate criminal activity.

**2. Please supply a copy of your mobile phone / device recovery and storage policy if this is a separate document to that requested at 1.**

Not applicable. Please see the answer to question 1.

**3.**

**i) In relation to mobile phones and devices what packaging do officers and staff use within the force to store those devices seized as evidence / for examination**

We use boxes where possible but will also use evidence bags if there are no boxes available.

**ii) If that packaging is a box are the devices secured within the box and if so how are they secured.**

If a box is used, devices are not secured.

**iii) If boxes are used who are the manufacture(s) of the boxes**

Mainline Flatpacks.

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**