



Response Date: 11/11/2024

2024/988 - Analysis of mobile devices

In response to your recent request for information excess cost is relevant to part which removes the force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

What is the average turnaround time (in days) for the investigation and analysis of mobile devices belonging to victims, from the time of submission to the time the device is returned to the victim?

North Wales Police (NWP) Digital Forensic Unit (DFU) have a process to extract data from devices of victims and witnesses in 24 hours. The onward analysis of the data and investigation would sit with the Officer in the Case (OIC).

Our information is set up and searchable for our policing purposes. To obtain the information in relation to when the phones were returned to each person would involve manually reviewing each record on our force system. The cost of providing you with the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of retrieving the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (FOI) Fees and Appropriate Limit regulations 2004.

Therefore, in accordance with the FOI Act 2000 the information you have requested is exempt under Section 12 (1), and this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under section 17 (5) of the legislation.

What is the average turnaround time (in days) for the investigation and analysis of mobile devices belonging to victims of sexual offences, from the time of submission to the time the device is returned to the victim?

Due to the way in which NWP DFU records its data against the cases it would be difficult to supply this information simply based on sexual offence.

What policy documents or guidelines your force follows regarding the handling and investigation of mobile devices from victims?

NWP Follows the PCSC Act utilising DPN forms in order to extract data from victims' devices or alternatively not actually extracting data directly from a device and support the least intrusive methods possible such as the victim supplying the evidence in some other way.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 08/11/2024