



**HEDDLU
GOGLEDD CYMRU
NORTH WALES
POLICE**

Response Date:14/05/2025

2025/528 - Digital Forensics Unit

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

In relation to your force's Digital Forensics Unit.

1.Device Submissions and Backlog

a. The number of devices currently awaiting examination.

See table in (b)

b. As of the present day, the number of devices that have been awaiting examination for under 30 days, 30 days - 3 months, 3 – 6 months, 6 months – 1 year and 2 – 3 years, 3 – 4 years, 4 years +.

	Phones	Computers	Other
0-30 (1 Month)	146	34	53
30-60 (3 Months)	127	30	27
60-180 (3-6 Months)	117	20	25
180-360 (6 Months - 1 Year)	60	47	32
360-720 (1-2 Years)	19	22	14
	469	153	151

c. Your force's target turnaround time for completing forensic investigations.

Service Level Agreements

	Urgent	High	Medium	Low
HTC		4 Weeks	8 Weeks	12 Weeks
MDE	1 Day	7 Days	21 Days	42 Days
CCTV	1 Day	7 Days	21 Days	42 Days

2.Staffing and Capacity

a. The number of full-time equivalent staff currently working in the DFU, broken down by role if possible.

DFU MANAGER – 1

DFU DETECTIVE SERGEANT – 1

Pencadlys yr Heddlu,
Glan-y-Don, Bae Colwyn LL29 8AW
www.heddlugogleddcymru.police.uk

Police Headquarters,
Glan-y-Don, Colwyn Bay LL29 8AW
www.northwales.police.uk

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DFU SPECIALIST TEAM MANAGER – 1
DFU TECHNICAL MANAGER – 2
DFU CONSTABLE – 4 (All currently training and not competent)
DFU CRIME INVESTIGATOR – 7 (3 Trained and Competent, 3 Training and 1 Vacancy)
DFU TECHNICIAN (VIDEO) – 3 (2 Full FTE, 2 0.5 FTE (2.5 Trained and Competent))
DFU MOBILE DEVICE EXTRACTION TECHNICIAN – 4
DFU MOBILE DEVICE EXTRACTION CONSTABLE - 1
DFU CRIME TECHNICIAN – 2 (1 Trained and Competent and 1 Vacancy)
DFU ADMINISTRATOR – 1
DFU INTERN – 1

28 Total

Growth 2025 – 1 DFU MOBILE DEVICE EXTRACTION TECHNICIAN and 0.5 DFU TECHNICAL MANAGER

b. Any vacancies or staffing shortfalls affecting the DFU in the last 12 months.

As can be seen from the above figures the DFU are currently building up to have fully trained and competent staff the MDE team has grown over the last two years but that has taken significant recruitment and resources to build, the other team in transition is the HTC (DFU CONSTABLE/DFU CRIME INVESTIGATORS) Currently for a team of 11 only 3 (27%) are fully trained and competent the process of trained and investigators is 12-18 months.

The reasons for the short falls are as follows:

- Retirements
- Resignations
- Vetting process
- Recruitment
- Pay

3. Accreditation and Quality

a. Whether your DFU is accredited to ISO/IEC 17025, and if so, for which types of digital forensic activity.

Link to UKAS certification ([8231Testing Single](#))

4. Efficiency Measures

a. Whether your DFU uses triage processes or tools to prioritise devices or speed up examination.

Not at present.

Once the team numbers are up we will move back to triaging at scene utilising many tools that we have at our disposal.

b. Whether your force uses any form of AI or automation to support digital forensic work.

Currently DFU uses Magnet automate this can be seen on our certificate held with UKAS.

c. Whether any part of your digital forensic workload is outsourced to external providers, and if so, approximately what percentage.

Over the past 12 months we have outsourced some Mobile Phones and a few mixed media cases, this will likely continue until the staffing numbers are fully competent.

d. Please disclose any regional or national forensic units you've collaborated with within the past year.

- FCN
- NWROCU
- CHESHIRE
- GMP
- SYTECH
- CCL

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 12/05/2025