



**Thames Valley Police**  
Chief Constable Francis Habgood QPM

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Griff Ferris

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Direct dial: 01865 542051  
Email: [publicaccess@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:publicaccess@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

**Our ref:** HQ/PA/003747/18

**Your ref:**

13 December 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

I write in response to the above-referenced Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request submitted on 22 November 2018. Thames Valley Police has now considered this request, which for clarity, has been repeated below:

<u><b>Request</b></u>	<u><b>Response</b></u>
<p>1. Is your force currently collecting digital information from devices belonging to complainants of sexual offences? For reference, "collecting digital information" in this context should be taken to mean and include any form of examination, access, extraction, copying or download of such digital information from digital devices, whether by self-service kiosks (SSKs), other device extraction software, or by external digital forensic examiners.</p>	<p>This request is being refused under <b>Section 12(1)</b> of the FOIA.</p> <p>Section 12 of the FOIA allows that public authorities do not have to comply with section 1(1) of the Act if the cost of complying would exceed the appropriate limit. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this request.</p>
<p>2. Does your force currently have any digital devices awaiting examination? If yes, please provide details of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. The number of devices currently awaiting examination.</li><li>ii. the average wait time for a digital device to be examined.</li></ul>	<p>This information is not held in an easily retrievable format. We would have to manually review the records (both electronic and manual) of all open sexual offence cases to determine if evidence has been requested from electronic devices and is yet to be processed. This will exceed the appropriate 18 hour time and £450 cost limit.</p>
<p>3. Does your force seek consent from complainants of sexual offences for the collection and/or disclosure of their personal information from their digital device or a third party organisation such</p>	<p><b>Section 16:- Further advice &amp; assistance</b> We have continued to provide</p>



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as medical records, counselling records, local authority records or educational records?	<p>information where possible. The provision of this data does not affect our legal right to rely on Section 12 for the rest of your request.</p> <p>1. Thames Valley Police will collect evidential material from wherever is relevant to the case, including electronic devices belonging to the complainant.</p> <p>3. Yes.</p>
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**Please note** that our records indicate the previous response mentioned when making this request does not contain any such cut and paste element. I attach a copy of this response for your information.

**Complaint Rights**

If you are dissatisfied with the handling procedures or the decision made by Thames Valley Police, you can lodge a complaint with the force to have the decision reviewed within two months of the date of this response. Complaints should be made in writing to the FOI inbox; [publicaccess@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:publicaccess@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk).

If, after lodging a complaint with Thames Valley Police, you are still unhappy with the outcome, you may make application to the Information Commissioner at the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours sincerely

Darren Humphries  
Public Access  
Joint Information Management Unit