

29th January 2019

## **Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20182312**

### **REQUEST**

#### **Revised request**

- 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.**
- 2. Does your force currently have any digital devices awaiting examination? If yes, please provide details of:**
  - i. The number of devices currently awaiting examination.**
  - ii. the average wait time for a digital device to be examined.**
- 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 as medical records, counselling records, local authority records or educational records?**
- 4. Has your force disclosed any digital information collected from digital devices belonging to complainants of sexual offences to the Crown Prosecution Service or the defendants’ legal representatives?**
- 5. Does your force currently use any form of artificial intelligence, machine learning, or other automated system to analyse the digital information collected from complainants of sexual offences’ digital devices? For reference, “collected” 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. If yes, please provide details of:**
  - i. the system or technology that your force is currently using.**
  - ii. for what purpose the system or technology is being used.**
- 6. Is your force currently trialling any form of artificial intelligence, machine learning, or other automated system to analyse the digital information collected from complainants’ digital devices or have plans to trial or use this technology in the next 2 years? If yes, please provide details of:**
  - i. the system or technology that your force is planning on using or trialling.**
  - ii. for what purpose the system or technology will be used.**
- 7. Does your force currently request, access or obtain information about complainants of sexual offences from third parties as part of investigations into sexual offences, including but not limited to material held by local authorities, medical and psychiatric records, counselling records, and school or education records?**

### **CLARIFICATION**

South Yorkshire Police has received a number of similar requests to yours in the past.

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/accessing-information/request-information-under-the-freedom-of-information-act/predictive-policing-programme-ref-20180964/>

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/media/2480/20181495-response.pdf>

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/media/2270/20181279-response.pdf>

## **FROM THE REQUESTER**

***Thank you for the request for clarification.***

***The previous requests are specific and narrowly focused on certain and specific types of predictive and risk-analysis systems. I am asking a wider question. In addition, these requests were made 6 months ago.***

***I would like to continue with the original request.***

## **RESPONSE**

1. Yes
2. I approached our Digital Forensic Unit for assistance with this question. They advise they are unable to provide the number of devices but can give a figure of 208 ongoing cases. Turnaround times are 4-12weeks dependant on the time scale allocated as per their SLA.
3. Yes
4. Yes
5. We have been asked this type of question previously where we approached the Specialist Crime Services Unit and the Local Command Team for assistance with your request.  
A Superintendent has advised:

*“we don’t use AI on anything”*

Therefore our response is one of “No Information Held”

6. As 5
7. Yes