



23rd February 2023

An Inspection into how well the police and other agencies use digital forensics in their investigations

On the 1st December 2022, His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services published a report into how effectively police and other agencies use digital forensics in their investigations.

The report recognises that advances in technology has presented new avenues for criminals to exploit. However, these advances shouldn't be seen as just threats, and can give police and other agencies opportunities to work smarter to keep pace with the changing landscape and help catch and convict criminals.

Recommendations for forces:

- By December 2023, each force in England and Wales should develop a governance and oversight framework to better understand the local demand for digital forensic services.
- By November 2024, chief constables should integrate digital forensic services under their existing forensic science structure.

In response to the two recommendations, the Constabulary has developed a governance and oversight framework to better understand local demand for digital forensic services.

A significant amount of additional resources has been allocated in this business area through the priority-based budgeting process. Constabulary performance and management information framework includes indicators for the management of digital forensics kiosks.

A wider review of the existing forensic science structure commenced in December 2022.

John Dwyer
Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire