



## Freedom of Information Request 942/17

**Response date: 27<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

Under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act (2000), could you please provide me information regarding current police policy that authorises the release of evidence to commercial companies as instructed by legal clients in defence cases.

Can you please provide documentation of your forces policy relating to the release of (i) digital forensic images (covering evidential computer devices such as hard disk drives and memory cards), and (ii) physical digital devices, covering evidential items such as smartphones and satellite navigation devices.

**Clarification - To clarify, I seek documentation of your forces policy in the following instance:**

***A request is made by the defence to conduct a forensic analysis on digital evidence, upon which charges are being brought. I request clarification on your forces policy with regard to the procedure to be followed to facilitate defence access to the digital evidence.***

***This digital evidence may either be (i) digital forensic images (covering evidential computer devices such as hard disk drives and memory cards), and (ii) physical digital devices, covering evidential items such as smartphones and satellite navigation devices.***

### RESPONSE

South Wales Police do not have a policy that covers this but we do ensure that a release document is signed by the person receiving forensic images in relation to safeguarding the data.

Disclosure of evidential material within a criminal case is covered within the CPS Disclosure Manual. This is a publically available document that can be found within the CPS website.

The link has been provided below for your ease.

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/disclosure-manual>

There is no additional policy document in place within South Wales Police that covers the points raised in the above request.

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