

Dear Member of the Public

I write in reply to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, our reference number FOI 040/21.

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to handle all requests in a manner that is blind to the identity of the requestor. Any information released in response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore in the public domain without caveat.

For ease of reference, I have copied your information request below:

1. Please confirm whether your police force has considered entering into a collaboration agreement pursuant to section 22A of the Police Act 1996 (as amended by the PRSRA) to establish a Forensic Capability Network (FCN).
2. Please confirm whether, as a result of such consideration, that such an agreement has been signed and if not please supply the reasons for not entering such an agreement.
3. If, such an agreement has been entered, please supply the date on which the agreement came into legal force.
4. Please confirm whether your police force has agreed that the Forensic Capability Network will prepare the next round of contracts for physical forensic services as part of their "next generation procurement" as detailed here on the FCN website <https://www.fcn.police.uk/news/2021-11/seven-year-plan-next-generation-procurement-physical-forensics-goes-market> , in other words, is your police force using this process or something else to procure such services?
5. If your police force is using something other than the Forensic Capability Network's process described in (4), please provide information as to what that process is.

Please be advised that the Police and Crime Commissioner's office does not hold any of the information you require. The remit of the Commissioner is to oversee the budget of Hertfordshire Constabulary and to hold the Chief Constable to account for the performance of the force. No information is held regarding operational police matters.

Please redirect your request to Hertfordshire Constabulary for any information they may hold on this subject. This can be done via the email foi@herts.police.uk.