



UK Police Agency Cuts Device Submissions by 76% with ADF Pro

Challenge

A UK regional police force's Pedophile Online Investigation Team (POLIT) faced severe delays due to digital forensic backlogs. Investigations often stalled for 1–2 years while waiting for seized devices to be analyzed by the Digital Forensic Unit (DFU).

This created serious risks:

- Victims waited longer for justice.
- Suspects remained free, potentially endangering more children.
- Investigators grew frustrated with slow turnaround times.

Key issues included:

- 300% rise in caseloads over four years.
- Staff expanded from 8 to 28 investigators, but backlogs still grew.
- No effective triage system to quickly assess risk or reprioritize cases.
- Existing technology wasn't applied to primary evidence devices.

Solution

POLIT adopted the ADF Pro digital triage tool to speed up investigations. With ADF, detectives could:

- Rapidly preview mobile devices and extract evidence (e.g., chat logs) in minutes.
- Confront suspects during interviews with fresh digital proof, leading to quicker confessions.
- Submit case files to court faster.

By prioritizing high-risk cases, the team streamlined workflows and reduced reliance on lengthy DFU examinations. DFU itself began recognizing the value of triage early in investigations.

ADF also improved:

- Internal communication
- Collaboration across teams
- Workflow efficiency
- Forensic integrity

Results

- 76% fewer devices sent to DFU for full analysis.
- 24 of 200 cases (10%) processed through streamlined charging in one year.
- High-risk cases managed more effectively and confidently.
- Faster identification and arrest of offenders, creating safer communities.

Summary

ADF Pro has transformed POLIT's approach to child sexual abuse material (CSAM) investigations. By modernizing processes, the agency reduced workloads, accelerated justice, and strengthened child protection efforts.

"ADF is the preferred tool for CSAM investigations because it is quicker, more detailed, and adaptable."

– **Detective Inspector, POLIT Team**

"ADF's flexibility, ease of use, and customizable reports streamline cases and support self-reporting."

– **Sergeant, POLIT Team**