

OFFICIAL



Heddlu Police

**DYFED-POWYS**

**FOI Reference: 376/2020**

**Request:**

My requests relate to the procedure of interviewing potential child victims of modern slavery/human trafficking and is a refinement of a previous FOI response (Reference Number: 333/2020).

I would greatly appreciate it if you could provide the following information within the specified timeframes:

1. From April 2018 to April 2020, have you conducted any joint interviews of child trafficking victims with a team composed of both your police force and a social worker?
2. Please could you also provide information on where these interviews are most likely to take place?
3. Please detail if this police force and the local children's services department in your area are co-located (to mean not only physically located together, but also the sharing of case management systems and processes).
4. Please provide a copy of any policy, guidance, training and/or instruction document on the use of joint interviewing for police officers and social workers in your Local Authority area.

**Clarification Sought:**

It was explained to the applicant that the same time estimate (404.08 hours) as provided for question 1 in their original request (333/20) was still applicable as the same method as explained in 333/20 would need to be undertaken in order to provide a response to question 1 of their above request (376/20).

In light of this the applicant was happy for only questions 2 – 4 of the above request to be processed.

**Response 2:**

I can confirm that Dyfed-Powys Police does hold the information requested, the details of which are as follows:

- Interviews of child victims generally take place at purpose built video interview suites. Interviews can also take place at other locations utilising portable equipment if that is in the child's best interests, or by taking a written account if they don't wish to be video/audio recorded.

### **Response 3:**

I can confirm that Dyfed-Powys Police does hold the information requested, the details of which are as follows:

- There are four separate Local Authorities within the Dyfed Powys Police area. None of the Children's Social Services are physically co-located with Police nor share direct access to the same case management systems. However, well-established information sharing procedures are followed in accordance with legislation, relevant guidance and the Wales Safeguarding Procedures to safeguard vulnerable people

### **Response 4:**

I can confirm that Dyfed-Powys Police does hold the information requested, the details of which are as follows:

The key guidance utilised by Dyfed Powys Police is:

- Ministry of Justice document Achieving Best Evidence in Criminal Proceedings (2011), available at this link:  
[https://www.cps.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/legal\\_guidance/best\\_evidence\\_in\\_criminal\\_proceedings.pdf](https://www.cps.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/legal_guidance/best_evidence_in_criminal_proceedings.pdf)
- Also, the College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice – Working with Victims and Witnesses, available at this link:  
<https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/investigations/victims-and-witnesses/>
- CPS guidance on Safeguarding Children as Victims and Witnesses, available at this link:  
<https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/safeguarding-children-victims-and-witnesses>
- Human Trafficking Foundation – Trafficking Survivor Care Standards, available at this link:  
<https://www.humantraffickingfoundation.org/policy>
- Interim Guidance for Independent Child Trafficking Guardians Early Adopter Sites, available at this link:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-trafficking-advocates-early-adopter-sites>
- The Code of Practice for Victims of Crime, available at this link:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-code-of-practice-for-victims-of-crime>
- Please also see the document named – DPP Investigative interviewing policy which has been attached to your response email.

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**It should be noted that owing to the systems adopted by Dyfed-Powys Police in relation to the recording of such matters the information provided may or may not be accurate.**

(This is a response under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and disclosed on 21/07/20)