

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO 2022-01**

Your request has now been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) and we provide our response below.

You asked:

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.

Your request for information has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) and our response is as follows:

Questions 1 – 3 - Dorset Police have entered into a collaboration agreement establishing a Forensic Capability Network. This agreement was signed by the Police and Crime Commissioner on 20 July 2020 and came into legal force on 1 October 2020.

Question 4 – Dorset Police is using FCN as described.

Question 5 - Not Applicable