

UK Metropolitan Police Service Triage of 6,000 Devices Delivers a 50% Escalation Rate with ADF Pro

Challenge

The Metropolitan Police Service (MET) — the United Kingdom's largest police force — faces one of the highest digital evidence volumes in Europe, particularly involving child sexual abuse material (CSAM) investigations.

Investigators were increasingly overwhelmed by:

- Massive growth in NCMEC referrals and online exploitation cases
- Search warrants producing 100+ devices per scene
- Digital forensic labs unable to keep pace with demand
- Detectives waiting too long for actionable intelligence

Traditional workflows required sending devices to central laboratories, creating delays in charging decisions and risk management.

Even expanding staff and resources could not keep up with the scale of digital evidence.

Solution

The MET implemented a new operational model: embedding digital forensic specialists directly with investigative teams and deploying ADF Pro as the foundation of frontline digital triage.

Key elements of the deployment included:

- Nearly 30 ADF Pro licenses deployed across London forensic hubs
- Digital forensic professionals embedded within investigative units
- Triage workflows focused on high-risk CSAM investigations
- Integration of GrayKey file system extractions into ADF
- Customized search profiles tailored to operational risk decisions

ADF enables officers to quickly determine:

- Whether devices contain illegal material
- Which devices belong to suspects
- What evidence supports immediate investigative action

Instead of waiting weeks or months, investigators receive intelligence the same day as a search warrant.

Results

The MET's adoption of digital triage transformed operational efficiency and investigative decision-making.

Operational Impact:

- 5,000–6,000 devices triaged within two years
- 50% escalation rate: 25% evidential indicators, 25% technical cases
- Prioritized devices with earlier identification and filtered non-relevant cases
- Enabled teams to operate at 2–3X previous capacity
- Large iPhone full file system datasets processed in under one hour

ADF also changed internal perceptions. Initial skepticism from laboratory examiners shifted as triage reports began saving analysts significant examination time.

Summary

By modernizing digital forensic workflows with ADF Pro, the Metropolitan Police Service established a scalable model for managing high-volume digital investigations.

- Prioritize high-risk cases
- Reduce forensic backlogs
- Make faster charging decisions
- Protect victims sooner
- Allocate forensic resources more effectively

ADF Pro now serves as a core operational capability supporting frontline policing across one of the world's busiest law enforcement agencies. The MET's experience demonstrates how digital triage can transform investigative outcomes in the face of rapidly growing digital evidence demands.

> "ADF has become fundamental to how we manage risk and make investigative decisions at scale."
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> **— Technical Lead, Frontline Digital Forensics, Metropolitan Police Service**