

Careers in policing Senior Digital Forensics Analyst, Sam Hale

Ever thought about a career in Forensics? Keep reading to see if this is the career for you...



Our Digital Forensics Unit is made up of police staff. The unit examines digital devices which are seized in connection with crimes. For example, phones, tablets, laptops and game consoles.

The officer in charge of the case would outline the points to prove, and the unit's role is to examine the device and provide evidence as part of the investigation.

Senior Digital Forensic Analyst Sam Hale has been with the department for seven years. Explaining more, he said: "Your main role in the unit would be to download and extract data from phones. Phones are like mini-computers these days so it's often that you need to employ different techniques to access the data you need.

"We tend to work on a lot of child sexual abuse cases but other jobs include murders, firearms investigations, drugs and fraud cases. It's our responsibility to then work with the officer in charge (OIC) to present the best evidence in court."

"You might even be required to present this in court. People are often convicted based on phone evidence we've extracted."

Recently, the team has been invaluable in securing the conviction of a child rapist, who was later sentenced to 18 years in prison. They've also seen two child abusers sent to prison for a total of 28 years.

Sam continued: "I really enjoy the job and I find it interesting, which is why I've never had the urge to move. I think for these roles, an interest in technology is key, as well as an inquisitive mind and a problem solving approach.

"When people talk about job satisfaction, I don't think there's anything out there to compare. I go home at night and know I've made a difference, being part of a team working to secure justice for the most vulnerable in our society"

Other benefits of working for South Yorkshire Police? We offer a generous amount of annual leave, a good pension, multiple training and development opportunities and flexible working.

