

- 4 x Digital Mobile Device Examiners;
- 3 x Digital Forensic Technicians;
- 1 x Detective Constable (Digital Forensic Investigator);
- 1 x Detective Sergeant (over establishment); and
- 4 x Police Constables (over establishment).

In December 2014 the Force was suffering from a severe operational backlog in relation to expediting digital device examinations. A snapshot of demand from that time reveals the extent of the problem.

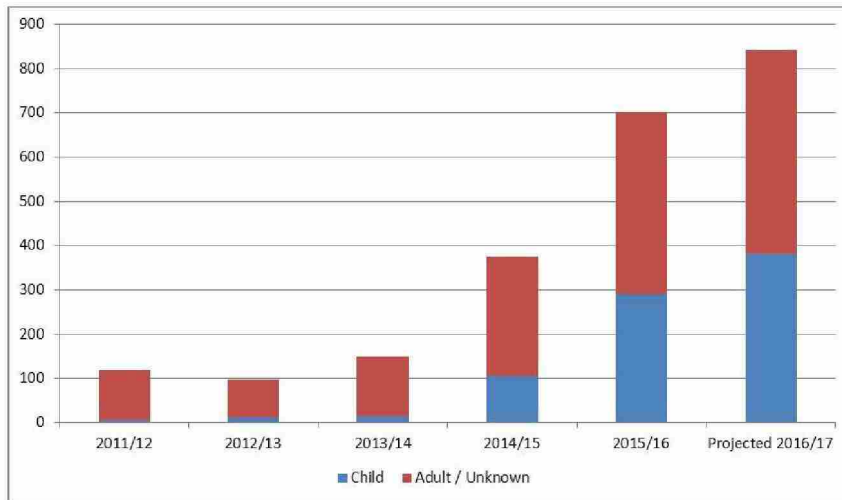
Type of case	Number of cases	Oldest case
Standard computer examinations	74	61 weeks
Urgent computer examinations	32	16 weeks
Standard telephone examinations	905	7 weeks
Urgent telephone examinations	10	2 weeks

Ref: The Pegasus Review Programme was an in house Transformational Change Review undertaken by GMP pre 2014.

A “Systems Thinking” review was conducted resulting in changes being made to the structure and establishment of the DIU under the Pegasus Review Programme. Since 2014 there has also been additional investment in the DIU in order to reduce the backlog of digital device examinations.

- June 2014 - £201,000.00 additional funding to manage the backlog of cases through outsourcing (due to deficiencies in staffing levels).
- September 2015 - £212,000.00 additional funding to manage the backlog of cases through outsourcing. This was a specific response to the demands of [REDACTED] (a specific and

Ref: [REDACTED] was a large scale CSA investigation conducted by GMP



It is anticipated that GMP has not yet experienced a peak in this category of offending, albeit the usual outcome in relation to children and young people is the implementation of safeguarding and education measures as opposed to criminal prosecution.

### **Volume Intelligence Referrals**

I have already discussed the challenges we have faced to date in dealing with this issue, in particular the spike in the volume of intelligence referrals that the Force has had to address recently. GMP is experiencing this spike at least in part as a consequence of changes to the way in which the NCA disseminates intelligence (on the basis of geo-location data). This particular demand on our resources is likely to continue throughout 2017.

### **Causing or Inciting A Child To Engage In Sexual Activity (online grooming)**

These offences have been increasing year on year and in 2015/16 the number of online offences we recorded overtook the number of offline offences. There was a 104% increase from 2014/15 to

capacity; and (b) therefore, an alternative approach should be taken to low risk offenders e.g. the use of 'cease and desist' letters of conditions and cautions.

Parts (a) and (b) of question 13 are both addressed in the following paragraphs:

GMP acknowledges that classic law enforcement approaches to dealing with online sexual exploitation via the internet may not always be effective and in any event our ability to pursue that approach is already restricted due to our limited resource capacity. Arresting our way out of the problem is clearly unrealistic as year-on-year demand continues to grow against a trend of reducing police resources.

**It is difficult to envisage an alternative solution which relies upon risk**

**assessment alone to determine appropriate action against a suspect.**

**Intelligence, regardless of the source, does not necessarily identify the true**

**level of risk at an early stage in a potential investigation.**

[REDACTED]

The actual level of threat is often not realised until intelligence has been developed, a warrant applied for and executed and the potential victim and/or offender identified, interviewed and researched. Moreover, the actual risk a suspect may pose cannot be fully understood until a forensic digital examination of their seized devices has been undertaken. This may be months after the warrant