

Kent Police Major Crime case study

“ Kinesense provided evidence of offending in the biggest investigation Kent Police has ever embarked on ”

Assistant Chief Constable

Kent Police use Kinesense LE to help solve the biggest investigation in the force's history

Kent Police is responsible for policing an area of 3,740 km² (1,440 square miles) and with a population of approximately 1.8 million people.

The Major Crime Unit at Kent Police collaborates with that at Essex Police and is spread over four different major incident rooms. Each year, they deal with around 50-70 separate investigations ranging from homicides, stranger attacks, large complex investigations, crimes in action (kidnaps) to product contaminations, etc.

Before purchasing Kinesense LE in 2021, two to three video specialists, using standalone machines separate from the main force infrastructure, would be responsible for managing the import and review of all CCTV recovered from a wide range of sources in relation to investigations. If they were unable to get the video to play, it would have to be submitted to the specialist forensics unit.

“ I have never dealt with a more capable team of experts. ”

Kent Police Major Crime case study

Operation Sandpiper

Kent Police initially purchased Kinesense LE for Operation Sandpiper, led by Major Crime Investigating Officer Graeme Clayton. This was a very complex investigation that initially started as a murder investigation but soon escalated into a necrophilia investigation, on a scale never seen before. The original investigation went back to 1987 with the unsolved murders of Wendy Knell and Caroline Pierce in Kent. Using pioneering DNA science the Cold Case Team linked the offender, David Fuller, with a family member. Fuller had worked for over 30 years at a local Hospital Trust as an electrician at two separate sites. Upon his arrest the crime scene investigators discovered evidence on discs and hard drives at his home of necrophiliac offences involving more than 100 deceased women and girls over a 12-year period. Two of the hard drives were hidden in a box, which was screwed to the back of a chest of drawers inside a wardrobe. On these, officers found footage Fuller had recorded of himself abusing corpses in the morgues.

The police seized 130,000 hours of hospital video from 3 different CCTV sources, plus 26,000 hours of mortuary footage and another 1,000 hours from Fuller's home address. In total this amounted to 80TB of video evidence.

How Kinesense was used to speed up the investigation

The first problem that the investigating officers encountered was that the video files from the hospital CCTV were a very old format and enormous in size and would subsequently not play, but Kinesense's technical team quickly developed a bespoke conversion program that enabled the material to be broken down into smaller chunks and ingested into Kinesense LE.

In order to interrogate the video for key events the investigating officers set up search filters to monitor movement in restricted areas and during restricted times, to look for both known and unknown individuals. This significantly reduced the amount of viewing time required by approximately 90-95%. From the reduced results a single dedicated investigator was able to go through the material expeditiously and using the image and video report tools, together with the timeline functions, quantify the exact amount of time the suspect spent in the restricted areas. Without Kinesense LE this would have needed a team of six or more officers due to the amount of material.

In addition to the reporting tools the officer used the annotation tools to assist the viewer in interpreting the evidence, whilst the clarification tools were also vital in identifying one particular victim so that the family were accurately notified of the offending.

Conclusion

The conclusion of the investigation, in which Kinesense played a significant role, was a guilty plea from the offender David Fuller at his trial at Maidstone Crown Court and such was the success that the team won the 'Force investigation of the year award' and the review of the CCTV material was also mentioned in the award which also resulted in PSE Clayton receiving a Chief Constable's Commendation.

When asked about the success of the investigation the Assistant Chief Constable believed it was down to the purchase and use of the system that the investigation team were able to accurately provide evidence of offending in the 'biggest investigation Kent Police has ever embarked on' and considerable cost-saving was achieved.

How Kinesense helped

- 150,000 HOURS SAVED DURING THE INVESTIGATION
- THE WORK OF 6 INVESTIGATORS WAS DONE BY 1
- CCTV EVIDENCE HELPED SECURE A SUCCESSFUL GUILTY PLEA