

Detectives – tracking website predators

Police Officers who investigate perpetrators of internet crime are referred to as Taskforce Argos. These officers may communicate with potential predators against children in chatrooms or even pose as children to draw out people who may engage in offences against children.

Personal qualities required to become a detective include superior communication skills, ability to think laterally and make decisions quickly. An interest in the internet and software is essential as is a working knowledge of how a computer works. However, it is not necessary to have an IT qualification.

It takes about three years and completion of an investigative skills program to become a detective/investigator. Success is based on performance and experience regarding arrests, court matters and previous investigations as well as performance at Detective training and supervisors comments.

All detectives are provided with regular psychological monitoring and assessment due to frequent exposure to distressing visual material.

An Argos team member states:
“Becoming a Detective can be one of the most rewarding positions in the Service.



I thoroughly enjoyed the five years I had in uniform – mobile patrols, walking the beat, etc. However, the capacity to attend major crime scenes as the lead investigator, assume operational control of significant incidents, deploy investigative/scientific/scenes of crime resources and arresting major offenders presents a different sort of challenge. The other aspect that is a distinct advantage from other areas of police work is the capacity to have measurable effects on various types of crime. By examining crime trends and working with intelligence officers, I can actually deploy investigative staff to proactively target the problem – in this particular case, paedophiles using the internet to prey upon children.”

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