Experiences of getting (geo)data from police forces

Crest

Different circumstance - similar issues

MSc/PhD student	Crest Advisory	
	Think tank	**Consultancy**
No substantial relationships with any police force. Poor understanding of: - Police structures - Police data systems Definitely no idea about what the data looks like.	We're going to them, they're not coming to us (normally). No police-internal lead - just (hopefully) interested stakeholders Asking for data and resources.	Significant senior buy-in Much shorter time-scales. Often asking for substantially more data/datasets

Finding an "in"

- Clearly identify and articulate how your work will benefit the people you need to talk to.
  - This can and will be different for different stakeholders - think about how it helps:
    - Chief Constable/Commissioner
    - Assistant Commander
    - Chief Superintendent
    - Inspector

- Make sure you find someone who actually wants to help you
  - If that person changes over time make sure you put in the time to engage the new person.

- Don't let them become a gatekeeper to the other people you need to talk to:
  - Research contracts/legal services
  - Data team - talk to the person who will actually pull the data for you as early as possible.

Agreeing data sharing

- Be clear on what you're going to use the data for and why you need it
  - Make sure you know what a DPIA, ISA, DSA, MoU are.
  - Understand what is and isn't allowed under GDPR.
  - Recognise that some geospatial data could be disclosive.

- Vetting and legal agreements take time - prioritise these **as soon as you know what you can actually get.**
  - You may not need vetting or a length DSA if your data are anonymised.
  - Don't be afraid of saying when you don't know or understand something - most officers and staff appreciate that their systems are convoluted and everything is an acronym; they're not going to think you're stupid if you don't know what a ROCU is or what IPV is.

- Don't be afraid to chase people when they promise you something.
  - Be appreciative of their time and that they're helping you out, but a polite prompt is not going to annoy people.

The infinite cycle of trying to work out what might be possible

What data do you have?

What data do you need?

Start by being very clear about what you would like:
- Accuracy of data
- Format of data
- Amount of data

What can you actually work with?
- Accuracy of data
- Format of data
- Amount of data

The speed at which you get data will be highly dependent on:

1 How well you **communicate the benefit** to the person you're dealing with

2 The **relationships** you build with them and other people in the chain

3 The **clarity** of your request and nailing down what is feasible (and what isn't)

Thank you

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