



**HEDDLU  
GOGLEDD CYMRU  
NORTH WALES  
POLICE**

Response Date:20/03/2023

### **2023/245 – Missing People**

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

Missing Persons can be recorded on 3 different systems with North Wales Police.

- ICAD which records call/logs incidents, they could be recorded under various headings when a call is received such as Concern for safety
- RMS, our Crime recording system – depending on circumstances, incidents from ICAD can be recorded on RMS for investigation as well as other occurrences.
- itrace – the missing person investigation system.

Our information is set up and searchable for our policing purposes. To obtain definitive answers to your request would involve reviewing reviewing each record on our force system and cross referencing the three systems mentioned. The cost of providing you with the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of retrieving the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (FOI) Fees and Appropriate Limit regulations 2004.

Therefore, in accordance with the FOI Act 2000 the information you have requested is exempt under Section 12 (1), and this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under section 17 (5) of the legislation.

Although excess cost removed the forces obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

**Please can you confirm for me the total number of people were reported missing to North Wales Police in the following calendar years: 2020, 2021, 2022 - and of those annual totals, how many were below the age of 18?**

The table below shows the data recorded on itrace;

I/ Trace - Year	Misper Records Created	Of those records , logs connected with children under 18
2020	1285	300
2021	1203	516
2022	1403	776

Not all missing incidents for various reasons are inputted onto the standalone missing persons investigation recording system. Itrace only reflects about 40% of reported overall incidents and just over a quarter of incidents the connected with children under 18. The I/trace data doesn't reflect the demand and work undertaken in this area and any report from this information would not be an accurate reflection on the actual demand.

**Can you also please confirm for each of those years, how many missing people were found - safe and well, or otherwise.**

Please see the exemption above.

**Additionally, if possible, can you confirm the total number of outstanding missing people cases the force has open as of today?**

On itrace we have six long term cases which are still subject of some degree of ownership with 4 of those case it is suspected that the individuals are presumed dead as information suggests they have gone into sea, one is abroad, and the other appears to be avoiding police.

In respect of the years subject of this request in the long-term section 1 case each appertains to the years 2020,21,22. We also have eighty-five archived cases where investigation wise, they have been concluded but are subject of periodic review and reviewed if new information comes too light. A good proportion of these outstanding cases relate to individuals missing at sea with some cases going back to 1970's. Also, cases where partial remains have been found but not the entire body has been recovered these remain classed as missing. Of the archived section 1 case relates to 2020 and 2 cases relate to 2021.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST  
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 13/03/2023