



HEDDLU
GOGLEDD CYMRU
NORTH WALES
POLICE

Response Date: 20/12/2024

2024/1091 - National/Regional Functions Hosted/Participated & Secondments

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

Can you detail any national or regional functions/partnerships/specialisms that are hosted by your force or that your force leads?

For example, WDTK notes that;

ACRO is hosted by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary -

<https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.whatdotheyknow.com%2Fbody%2Facro&data=05%7C02%7CFreedomofInformationTeam%40northwales.police.uk%7C9daf7732759c4374e52608dd0b2c7b5d%7C4e86b176a10e43bd8d27927f44d0e665%7C0%7C0%7C638679007868776999%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIIYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIIAiOiJXaW4zMtIsIkFOIjoitWFpbCIiIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=bigaYcbIGm9OkSDaYbU0hcmevKrXmqnSXMWYp85p1aY%3D&reserved=0>

CPTHQ is hosted by the Metropolitan Police -

<https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.whatdotheyknow.com%2Fbody%2Fcpthq&data=05%7C02%7CFreedomofInformationTeam%40northwales.police.uk%7C9daf7732759c4374e52608dd0b2c7b5d%7C4e86b176a10e43bd8d27927f44d0e665%7C0%7C0%7C638679007868794075%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIIYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIIAiOiJXaW4zMtIsIkFOIjoitWFpbCIiIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ZgBvBLX7dfqCAwXlkoOid9sbzkyq%2FwnIqWvwupL3zpI%3D&reserved=0>

CMPG is hosted by West Midlands Police -

https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.whatdotheyknow.com%2Fbody%2Fcentral_motorway_police_group&data=05%7C02%7CFreedomofInformationTeam%40northwales.police.uk%7C9daf7732759c4374e52608dd0b2c7b5d%7C4e86b176a10e43bd8d27927f44d0e665%7C0%7C0%7C638679007868805776%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIIYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIIAiOiJXaW4zMtIsIkFOIjoitWFpbCIiIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=XSJAj%2BtCvR0RtztMOiRzSdMmTsVvdd3Wf6Dn6gjFIQ0%3D&reserved=0

Can you detail any national or regional functions/partnerships/specialisms that your force participates in?

For example,

NPAS is hosted by West Midlands Police, but have participation from all forces in England & Wales.

**For each national or regional functions/partnerships/specialism, please detail;
Number of officers staff seconded out & where to - include rank for officers and role & grade for staff.**

Number of officers staff seconded out & where from - include rank for officers and role & grade for staff.

Please find attached national or regional functions/partnerships/specialisms that are hosted, lead or participated in by North Wales Police. The tables include officers seconded.

Concerns have been raised in relation to providing the information number of officer in certain Counter Terrorist function. Therefore, a public Interest Test has been carried out to weigh up the reasons for and against disclosure; to ensure the release is in the interest of the public as a whole and not just the applicant.

Section 24 (1) National Security Section

Section s31(1)(a)(b) Law Enforcement

Sections 24 and 31 are qualified prejudice based exemptions and therefore require evidence of harm and consideration of the public interest test

The Harm Test process requires North Wales Police to consider any possible harm that might arise as a result of placing the requested information into the public domain. This process considers the potential harm to:

- Individuals
- The community as a whole
- North Wales Police and the wider policing service
- Other bodies

Evidence of harm

The disclosure of the staff levels within specialist counter terrorism units together would reveal granular tactical capabilities, or the lack of, to the public. With previous similar requests, the national policing lead has made it clear that this information needs to be protected at force level as if all forces were to disclose, a mosaic picture of capabilities within CT units would be realised identifying the most vulnerable. The information requested relates to a specialised area of policing. There is a public interest in the community being made aware of all the facts relating to the policing of counter terrorism in order to ensure complete openness and transparency as there is often speculation and rumour within this arena. However, the staffing of these units is measured and authorised by chief officers after careful consideration in order to protect the public and apprehend individuals who carry out terrorist atrocities as part of their criminality. To disclose this information would reveal tactical staffing capability and would place North Wales Police at a tactical disadvantage. The risk to public safety cannot be ignored and the Police Service has a responsibility to ensure safety of individuals is protected at all times. Modern day policing is intelligence led and law enforcement depends upon the development of intelligence and the gathering and security of evidence in order to disrupt criminal behaviour and bring offenders to justice.

This is a disclosure to the world which would enable offenders to identify the numbers across the country.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure section 24

The public are entitled to know how public funds are spent and resources are distributed within an area of policing. To disclose information relating to this request would enable the general public to hold the force to account with regards to the resource levels of officers/staff members attached to counter terrorism units. In the current climate where there are calls for transparency within the counter terrorism policing arena, disclosure would enable more informed public debate into ensuring police forces have adequate staffing for counter terrorism officers/staff members.

Factors favouring non-disclosure section 24

Security measures are in place to protect the communities that police forces serve. To disclose information relevant to this request would highlight to terrorists and individuals intent on carrying out criminal activity, potential vulnerabilities within the police service by revealing staff level within counter terrorism. Taking into account the current security climate, with a current

national terrorist threat level of 'Substantial', meaning an attack is 'likely', no information which could assist a terrorist in their attempts to disrupt society should be disclosed. To what extent this information may aid a terrorist is unknown, but it is clear that it would have an impact on a force's ability to monitor terrorist activity on a national basis. The public trust the Police Service as a whole to make appropriate decisions with regards their safety and protection, and one of the ways of reducing risk is to be cautious with what is placed into the public domain. The cumulative effect of terrorists gathering information from various sources would be even more impactful when viewed as a whole. The more information that is disclosed over time will provide a detailed account of the tactical infrastructure of a force area and then the country as a whole. Any incident that results from such a disclosure would be default affect national security.

Factors favouring disclosure section 31

Disclosure of this information would lead to better public awareness surrounding the deployment of counter terrorism trained resources within CT departments by providing openness and transparency in relation to staffing matters within CT units.

Factors against disclosure section 31

When the current or future law enforcement role of the force may be compromised by disclosing staffing levels within CT departments either locally or nationally, the effectiveness of the force(s) will be reduced. In this case, for the reasons outlined in the evidenced harm, the effectiveness of current and future strategies when investigating counter terrorism may be compromised. The personal safety of individuals is of paramount importance to the Police Service and must be considered in response of every release. A disclosure under Freedom of Information is a release to the world and, in this case, disclosing staffing levels within CT units would identify staff levels nationally.

Balance test

Disclosing the information requested would allow inferences to be made about the establishment and deployment capability of counter terrorist officers and staff deployed within counter terrorist units locally and nationally. This could enable terrorist groups to take steps and choose to commit crime in forces that have fewer CT staff within their counter terrorism departments to avoid detection, and as such, this would impact and be damaging to National Security. This would lead to the compromise of ongoing or future operations to protect the security or infrastructure both within the UK and internally. As always the Freedom of Information Act has a presumption of disclosure, unless when balancing the competing public interest factors the prejudice to the community outweighs the benefits. In this case, there is an argument for disclosure, inasmuch as the public have a right to know that every effort is made to ensure all CT units are staffed appropriate and in line with current intelligence, but this must be balanced against the negative impact these disclosures can make. Law Enforcement is reliant on community engagement, intelligence and evidence gathering and when it is appropriate, information is given to the public. What has been established in this case is the fact that disclosure of staffing levels within CT units would have an adverse effect on the investigative process and on the public prevention or detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders. This places the victims of such offending at a greater risk towards their health and wellbeing and is not an action the Police Service would be willing to take. These negatives outweigh any tangible community benefit and therefore the balance does not favour disclosure at this time

Therefore, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under section 17 (1) of the legislation.

Also detail any of the above that have ended in the last 10 years. If this exceeds cost. proceed with the remainder of the request above.

We do not hold data relating to those that have ended in the last 10 years.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 11/12/2024

FOI 2024/1091 request:

1. Can you detail any national or regional functions/partnerships/specialisms that are hosted by your force or that your force leads?

NWP LEAD	Notes	Total employees	Rank /Grade breakdown	Secondees
Forensic Collision Investigation Network (FCIN)	NWP Lead	30	DIRECTOR FCIN 1 PO(A) 2 PO(C) 12 PO(D) 3 PO(E) 5 PO(F) 1 PO(G) 1 SCALE6 1 SO1 2 SO2 2	
Police National Database (PND)	NWP Lead	5	NPCC Chief Officer (5)	
OPAL (National Intelligence Unit for Serious and acquisitive crime)	NWP Lead	16	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR 1 CHIEF INSPECTOR 1 CONSTABLE 1 NOT APPLICABLE 3 OPAL POD/E 1 PO(B) 1 SCALE5 2 SO1 2 SO2 4	
TELECOMMS SPOC	Telecom SPOC – NWP Lead – NWP/Cheshire Collaboration	8	PO(D) 1 SO2 6 TEMP SERGEANT 1	

Minerva	Minerva – Were the lead but no longer the lead from 1st April 2024 – Niche Collaboration (All Force who have got Niche)		SCALE4 1 SECONDED MINERVA 1	2
E-Recruitment	All Wales E-Recruitment – North Wales Police Lead – 4 Welsh Force	3	PO(B) 1 SCALE6 2	
Estates / Fire Service	Facilities – North Wales Police Lead – Police/Fire	3	PO(A) 1 PO(B) 1 PO(D) 1	

2. Can you detail any national or regional functions/partnerships/specialisms that your force participates in? For example, NPAS is hosted by West Midlands Police, but have participation from all forces in England & Wales. For each national or regional functions/partnerships/specialism, please detail;

Collaboration	Notes	Total employees	Rank /Grade breakdown	Secondees
WECTU/Counter Terrorism Policing	Counter Terrorism (Borders/Special Branch/CTIU/CTSA) – NCTPHQ		Section 24 & 31	
Go Safe	All Wales Road Safety Partnership (Go Safe) – Dyfed Powys Lead	39	SERGEANT 1 CONSTABLE 1 PO(A) 1 SCALE4 25 SCALE5 1 SCALE6 7 SO1 3	

West Coast Collaboration Niche and Robotics	West Cost Collaboration (Niche) – Merseyside Lead – Merseyside/Cheshire /North Wales/Dyfed Powys	9		
Underwater Search Unit	Underwater Search – Cheshire Lead – North West Forces	2	Constable	
NWROCU / TITAN	NWROCU – Merseyside Lead – All North West Force		Section 24 & 31	
Firearms Alliance	Armed Alliance (Armed and Dogs) – Cheshire Lead – NWP/Cheshire Collaboration	88		
Dogs Alliance	Armed Alliance (Armed and Dogs) – Cheshire Lead – NWP/Cheshire Collaboration	29		
JESG	All Wales JESG	1	Temp Chief Inspector	
NPAS	NPAS – West Yorkshire Lead – National	1	Constable	
Seconded Out from NWP	WEST MIDS CTU - CBRN		Section 24 & 31	
Seconded Out from NWP	COLLEGE OF POLICING		CONSTABLE	1 Constable

Seconded Out from NWP	CT POLICING SECONDMENT		Section 24 & 31	
Seconded Out from NWP	MET CTPLO SECONDMENT		Section 24 & 31	