



Response Date:09/01/2024

2024/1146 - Palestinian activism

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

1. Any and all documents, policies, guidelines, or procedures that North Wales Police have in relation to policing protests, dealing with Palestinian activism and protests or demonstrations specifically related to the Palestinian cause. This includes, but is not limited to the below:

Policy for protest is set nationally, therefore everything done would have been in accordance with national guidance, ECHR and relevant legislation.

a. Copies of guidance notes (whether physically or electronically issued) to members of the force in relation to policing of protests and Palestine focused protests and demonstrations.

There is no specific tactics etc for dealing with Palestinian protest, just generic protest within the realms of the law (ECHR/Legislation).

b. Copies of any communication between the Home Office and the Chief Constable of the North Wales Police (and their response) in relation to policing of protests and Palestine focused protests and demonstrations. Please include communications made by physical or electronic means.

No information held

c. Copies of any guidance, policies or communications specific to student protests.

No information held

d. Any change of policing policy regarding protests since 1 October 2023, specifically Palestine solidarity protests and demonstrations.

None, as in line with national guidance, ECHR and relevant legislation.

e. Details of the training provided to officers to respond to protests, included more specifically protests or demonstrations specifically related to the Palestinian cause or conducted by university students.

Officers are trained in relevant national PO tactics.

f. Please provide copies of all emails sent and received by the police force and Bangor University staff since 1 October 2023 discussing Palestine protest activity on the university campus.

Harm has been identified in providing you with the requested information;

A Freedom of Information Act request is not a private transaction. Both the request itself, and any information disclosed, are considered suitable for open publication. This is because, under Freedom of

Information, any information disclosed is released into the wider public domain, effectively to the world and not just to one individual.

Therefore, Section 31 (1) (a) Law Enforcement is to be considered as part of the Public Interest Test. A Public Interest Test has been carried out to weigh up the reasons for and against disclosure of the information requested, to ensure the release is in the interest of the public as a whole and not just the applicant.

Section 31 (1) (a) Considerations

North Wales Police are charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve.

While we appreciate you will have no ill meaning behind your request, disclosure could be used by those with criminal intent against the North Wales Police or the UK as intelligence against North Wales Police resources, knowledge at a given point in time and law enforcement tactics to undermine policing efforts. It is not in the public interest to disclose information that could be used to assist in the planning of criminal activity, due to an adverse FOIA disclosure.

Section 31 factors in favour of disclosure

The use of police resources and tactics is a matter that the force should hold up to public scrutiny as the police are accountable for public funds and public safety; therefore there is a public interest in justification of the spending of these funds and how the public are kept safe.

Section 31 factors in favour of non-disclosure

Disclosure would lead to a loss of confidence in the North Wales Police and UK ability to protect the safety of the community (for example, following an adverse FOIA disclosure regarding resources, tactics or local intelligence).

The risks to individuals and the community is likely to be significant if the information is used by those with the necessary criminal intent to undermine the very purpose information is held (crime prevention and detection at a national scale).

Extra security measures and policing resources may need to be put into place with the disclosure of this information. This is because of the risk disclosure brings in that it could be used as intelligence by those with the necessary criminal intent to undermine policing in different parts of the UK based on the content of the full minutes.

Balance Test

The strongest reason favouring disclosure is increasing public knowledge of a policing conversation and North Wales Police being open and transparent.

The strongest reason favouring non-disclosure is to not undermine law enforcement tactics, methodology and resources by virtue of an adverse FOIA disclosure.

On weighing up the competing interests I have determined that the disclosure of the above information would not be in the public interest. I consider that the benefit that would result from the information being disclosed does not outweigh the considerations favouring non-disclosure.

I appreciate this is not the decision you would have liked for this part of your request. However this decision has been made on the understanding that the public interest is not what interests the public but is what would be of greater interest to the public as a whole, should the information be disclosed.

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

You may wish to contact the College of Policing for the national guidance;
foi@college.police.uk

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 08/01/2025