



**HEDDLU
GOGLEDD CYMRU
NORTH WALES
POLICE**

Response Date: 29/02/2024

2024/133 - NPCC searching policy December 2021

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

On 13th January 2024, it was widely reported that the NPCC has withdrawn its policy and guidance agreed previously at an NPCC meeting on 9/10 December 2021 dealing with the ability of officers to self identify as the opposite sex and conduct searches that are 'same sex' only under the provisions of the Police & Criminal Evidence Act 1984.

<https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.telegraph.co.uk%2Fnews%2F2024%2F01&data=05%7C02%7CFreedomofInformationTeam%40northwales.police.uk%7C96aca427ed7f4a2b467808dc21dbe828%7C4e86b176a10e43bd8d27927f44d0e665%7C0%7C0%7C638422475585185131%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Iik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=b1IvDU5zMDV03LL9seVjkzR2mT%2B19i0bj4OAs2GwWWY%3D&reserved=0...>

The NPCC stated at this time, that forces would revert to their own local policies.

I specifically seek to know;

1. Whether this force has also withdrawn the NPCC policy above and on what date it did so.

The NPCC Guidance was withdrawn from our policy on the 24th January.

2. In respect to searches exceeding the most basic search of outer clothing, commonly referred to as more thorough searches, strip searches or intimate searches, please advise whether this force permits any searching to be conducted by an officer of the opposite sex. For clarity, "sex" here means biological / physical sex, regardless of how the officer identifies, whether by way of a Gender Recognition Certificate or via verbal self-identification.

The NPCC guidance is currently under review and, in the interim, the guidance has been temporarily removed from the NPCC website. The temporary removal of this guidance has been duly communicated with our officers and staff.

North Wales Police do not utilise a specific strip search policy. Instead, our police officers and staff are expected to have regard to Authorised Professional Practice (APP) when discharging their duties. This is developed and owned by the College of Policing as the official source of professional practice within policing:

[Equality and individual needs | College of Policing](#)

We continue to act in the boundaries of the law and remain committed to ensuring that all searches and procedures are carried out with courtesy, consideration and respect for the person concerned, and that they are conducted in line with our training and legal authority, taking into account our responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 and PACE 1984.

3. If this force is still permitting such opposite sex searching to continue, which officer has made that decision. Please also identify the rank of the officer.

N/A.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 19/02/2024