



Response Date:03/06/2024

2024/399 – Mispers

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.

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act. Please could you supply the following information:

1) The number of people recorded as missing by the force in each of the years 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24.

April 2021 – March 2022 = 3,545

April 2022 – March 2023 = 4,272

April 2023 – March 2024 = 5,200

2) For each year, please could you provide a breakdown of the ages, gender and ethnicity of missing people.

Please note: We are unable to supply data for ethnicity, due to data limitations (i.e. This information is not consistently recorded).

April 2021 – March 2022 – (only able to provide gender breakdown for Feb & Mar 2022)

0 – 17yrs = 2,045

Male 0 – 17yrs = 184

Female 0 – 17yrs = 182

18 – 64yrs = 1,103

Male 18-64yrs = 98

Female 18-64yrs = 62

65+yrs = 159

Male 65+yrs = 12

Female 65+yrs = 12

April 2022 – March 2023:

Male 0 – 17yrs = 1,372

Female 0 – 17yrs = 1,409

Male 18-64yrs = 833

Female 18-64yrs = 417

Male 65+yrs = 115
Female 65+yrs = 60

April 2023 – March 2024:

Male 0 – 17yrs = 1,917
Female 0 – 17yrs = 1,691

Male 18-64yrs = 920
Female 18-64yrs = 472

Male 65+yrs = 120
Female 65+yrs = 63

3) For each year, please could you provide a breakdown of how many people had previously been recorded as missing/were repeat mispers.

Our information is set up and searchable for our policing purposes. To obtain the information in the format you have requested would involve manually reviewing each record on our force system. 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.

4) For each year, how many missing people investigations took place and how many were closed.

April 2021 – March 2022 = 3,545, closed 3541 – 4 remain open
April 2022 – March 2023 = 4,272, closed 4,272
April 2023 – March 2024 = 5,200, closed 5,197 – 3 remain open

5) For each year, please could you provide an estimation of the cost to the force of missing persons investigations.

North Wales Police do not complete activity based costing.

6) For each year, how many hours of police time were spent on missing persons investigations.

Please see the answer to question 3.

7) What is the most the force has spent in estimated costs on an individual missing person investigation.

Please see the answer to question 5.

8) What is the longest running individual investigation into a missing person carried out by the force.

Earliest recorded report of MISPER remaining in archive dated as reported 11/03/1966, remains open as of 24/05/24.

9) What is the average length of a missing persons investigation.

Please see the answer to question 5.

10) How many outstanding missing persons investigations is the force dealing with.

As of 24/05/24, there are currently 90 outstanding missing reports, registered with North Wales Police.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 24/05/2024