



HEDDLU
GOGLEDD CYMRU
NORTH WALES
POLICE

Response Date:23/08/2024

2024/738 - Strip Searches & Police Complaints

In response to your recent request for information excess cost is relevant to part which removes 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 provide the following information, broken down by financial year for 2023-24, 2022-23, and 2021-22:

- **The number of strip searches carried out by police.**
 - **Of these, how many were carried out on someone 10-17 years old?**
 - **Of these, how many were carried out on someone under-10 years old?**

Just to clarify, this FOI is in relation to strip searches in custody - under PACE S54 - and strip searches resulting from the use of stop and search powers.

Strip search in custody. Arrivals between 01/04/2021 and 31/03/2024

****Strip search records are sourced from any 'Search' type record in the detention log with the word %strip% in the entry.****

2021/22	
Age Range	Custody Ref Count
02. 10 - 17 Years	17
03. 18 and Over	417
2022/23	
Age Range	Custody Ref Count
02. 10 - 17 Years	4
03. 18 and Over	335
2023/24	
Age Range	Custody Ref Count
02. 10 - 17 Years	5
03. 18 and Over	315

Stops + Search Subject Clothing Removed = Full or Partial Strip. Nil return for Under 10 Age Group

Fiscal Year	02. 10- 17 Years	03. 18 and Over	04. No DOB Recorded
2021	8	108	1
2022	4	45	0
2023	5	30	1

- **The number of police complaints received about a police strip search.**

01/04/2021 – 31/03/2022

Nil.

01/04/2022 – 31/03/2023

Two

01/04/2023 – 31/03/2024

Nil.

Our information is set up and searchable for our policing purposes. The response to this question has been obtained by individually manually reviewing the complaint cases assessed as arising out of "Stop Search" factor only, as there is no national factor for "Strip Search".

In essence the two cases above relate to Stop Search complaints where the complainant articulated that they have been subject of a "Strip Search".

If I was required to manually review every allegation for that period it would amount to 3679 separate allegations and as such would significantly exceed the time parameters set for such requests.

To obtain the information of every allegation for that period would require a manual search of 3679 separate allegations. 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.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 19/08/2024