



Response Date:02/09/2024

2024/783 - Missing people

In response to your recent request for information excess cost is relevant to one question 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.

1. How many missing persons cases have been filed in your police force in each of the following years: 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023

Please note we are unable to provide data for 2018 for Q1 and Q3.

2018 – N/A

2019 – 3,658

2020 – 2,907

2021 – 2,947

2022 – 3,649

2023 – 4,938

2. How many missing persons cases have been filed in your police force in 2024 up to June 30th (inclusive)?

2024 – 2,634

3. Of those people reported missing, how many are still missing and how many have been found?

2018 – N/A

2019 – 0 outstanding, 3,658 located

2020 – 2 outstanding, 2,905 located

2021 – 3 outstanding, 2,944 located

2022 – 1 outstanding, 3,648 located

2023 – 2 outstanding, 4,936 located

2024 – 2 outstanding, 2,632 located

4. Of those who are still missing - please provide a breakdown of the status of those cases. For example: Cold cases - ? Active investigations - ? Long-term case - ? Case closure - Etc.

2018 – 3 archived

2019 – N/A

2020 – 1 long term missing, 1 archived

2021 – 1 long term missing, 2 archived

2022 – 1 archived

2023 – 1 long term missing, 1 archived

2024 – 2 long term missing

Please note:

All data is provided to the best of our knowledge and records established on our systems. We have created our own system to record missing incidents to give a more accurate reflective missing picture in North Wales.

5. How many complaints have been made to your Professional Standards Department regarding missing persons investigations / cases.

A) How many of those complaints were upheld

B) How many of those complaints were partially upheld

C) How many of those complaints were not upheld

Please note that the recording process for complaints altered on 01/02/2020 at which point “missing persons” was a defined complaint factor, which means that results are searchable within our records management systems. To establish cases prior to 01/02/2020 would require a manual review of every case for 25 months which would exceed time parameters for such requests. 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.

Terminology for complaint outcomes does not reflect the query and as such we have responded using – Service Acceptable (SA) Service Not Acceptable (SNA) or Unable to determine level of service delivered (UTD).

2018 – Not available.

2019 – Not available.

2020 (after 01/02/2020) - Nil.

2021 – 2.

2022 – 5.

2023 – 3.

2024 YTD – 2 (One case is still live).

Please note that one complaint may contain several separate allegations and as such the outcomes below relate to allegations rather than complaints.

A) How many of those complaints were upheld

SA Allegations

2020 (after 01/02/2020) - Nil.

2021 - 13.

2022 - 29.

2023 - 5.

2024 YTD - 1.

B) How many of those complaints were partially upheld

UTD Allegations

2020 (after 01/02/2020) - Nil.

2021 - Nil.

2022 - Nil.

2023 - 1.

2024 YTD - Nil.

C) How many of those complaints were not upheld

SNA Allegations

2020 (after 01/02/2020) - Nil.

2021 - Nil.

2022 - 15.

2023 - Nil.

2024 YTD - Nil.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 22/08/2024