



Response Date:24/09/2024

2024/867 – Broken into wrong home address

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

1. How many times in the last 5 calendar years has your Police Force broken into the wrong home address by mistake searching for evidence?

The police can apply to the Magistrates for a warrant to enter and search premises by force if required. The officer will provide evidence/intelligence to support the action under oath in the honest belief that those details are correct. Once the warrant is authorised and executed, it may be on occasions that the person sought or property is not present. The Legal department believe North Wales Police in relation to claims have not broken into any property by mistake.

2. How many times did your Police Force:

a) Use breaking in as a first resort

b) Consider and use less intrusive methods of pursuing evidence?

As above for example if you are looking for drugs you may need to get into the property quickly to prevent disposal, or if you're looking for a television you could knock the door. It is always a consideration to not force entry to a property and this has to be authorised by a magistrate.

North Wales Police carry out numerous warrants. The outcome would be noted as executed. Whether entry was forced or not would not be recorded.

3. What is the highest, lowest and average compensation or restitution paid?

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£750.00

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 23/09/2024