



**HEDDLU
GOGLEDD CYMRU
NORTH WALES
POLICE**

Response Date:05/02/2025

2025/037 - Details of group-based child sexual exploitation investigations

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 would like to request under the Freedom of Information act, information held by you on group-based child sexual exploitation.

In particular, I would like to know what definition, if any, you use to identify group-based child sexual exploitation.

- We use the NPCC definition for group-based child sexual exploitation

Have you a dedicated team investigating group-based child sexual exploitation? If so, how many officers, by rank, are involved in this team?

If there is no dedicated team, how do you investigate allegations of group-based child sexual exploitation?

- Within North Wales Police's Exploitation Unit, there is a team dedicated to safeguarding victims of child exploitation and disrupting perpetrators. The team is called Onyx. It is overseen by the Exploitation Unit Detective Inspector and consists of a Detective Sergeant, three Detective Constables, eight Police Constables and a civilian member of staff. Onyx is also supported when required by an additional Detective Sergeant however this is not her main role. The Onyx team retain some investigations into exploitation offences however they must prioritise safeguarding / disruption work. Therefore, some exploitation cases are allocated to detectives based on CID or the Serious Organised Crime Unit based on the complexity of the case, the threat / risk involved and the nature of the offences under investigation.

I would like to know how many investigations into group-based child sexual exploitation you have carried out since 2000. I would like this figure broken down by year, if possible.

I would also like to know the number of suspects arrested as part of these investigations and the number subsequently charged. If possible I would like a breakdown of the age, sex and ethnicity of those arrested and charged.

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.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 31/01/2025