



Response Date:06/11/2025

2025/1111 - Operation Stone

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

Please can you disclose how many reports you received in connection with Operation Stone?

Please could you also disclose:

- 1. The date of each report made**
- 2. The nature of the report (e.g. what the alleged offence was)**
- 3. The outcome of the report (including if any reports remain under investigation?)**

We can confirm that information is held by North Wales Police in relation to your request. However, concerns have been raised in relation to disclosing information relating investigations; therefore, the following exemptions have been engaged:

Section 30 (1) Investigations and proceedings conducted by the public authority
Section 40 (2) Personal data

Section 30 (1) is a qualified and class based exemption and thus a consideration of the public interest must be provided upon disclosure. Please see the reasoning below.

Section 40 is an absolute and class based exemption and no public interest test is required.

Harm

To provide specific details relating to a criminal investigation would have a detrimental effect on any future proceedings or appeals process. This remains an ongoing case.

Considerations that favour disclosure – Section 30

Disclosure could lead to better public awareness of Police activities and its resources, which in itself would lead to better public debate and participation and might increase confidence in its approach to crime prevention.

In this case it would give additional understanding of the case.

Considerations against disclosure – Section 30

If North Wales Police released specific details of investigations it could prejudice law enforcement or potentially damage the criminal justice system. In this case, to disclose

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additional details of this case not already in the public domain would have a detrimental effect on any future proceedings or appeals process.

Balance Test

Whilst the Freedom of Information Act encourages accountability and transparency, North Wales Police would never release information that would compromise investigations or interfere with the future law enforcement role of the force. We must protect any information that would negatively impact on any operation or reveal our tactical capabilities.

When balancing the public interest test we have to consider whether the information should be released into the public domain. Arguments need to be weighed against each other. The most persuasive reason for disclosure is public awareness/accountability which needs to be compared to the strongest negative reason, which in this case is the detrimental effect on future proceedings or appeals process. Therefore, on balance, it is considered that the public interest in providing the information is outweighed by the detrimental effect on future proceedings or appeals process.

Therefore, it is our opinion that for reasons above the balancing test for disclosure of the requested information is not made out.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under section 17 (1) 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 05/11/2025