



Response Date:21/11/2025

2025/1187 - Drug Awareness Course

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.

This request concerns the operation of cannabis awareness courses by your police force.

Please could you provide the following information.

1. Does your police force offer drug awareness courses for people caught with possession of cannabis?

Yes – The Drug Education Programme (DEP) the course covers different substances and is not specific for cannabis

If so:

2. What year did the force commence operating these courses?

2019 when Checkpoint Cymru went live

3. What was the cost of running this course in the 2025 calendar year to date?

DEP courses are run under Checkpoint budget which is funded by OPCC.

You may wish to direct this question to the OPCC;

[Freedom of Information | Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner North Wales](#)

4. Please state the number of times a person attended these courses in each calendar year from 2015 to 2025 to date.

Our information is set up and searchable for our policing purposes. This information is not held in a easily accessible from our systems. 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.

5. Please state how much money the force received from fees charged for these courses in each of the calendar years from 2015 to 2025 to date.

DEP courses are funded by OPCC under Checkpoint Cymru programme. Participants do not have to pay to attend the course.

Pencadlys yr Heddlu,
Glan-y-Don, Bae Colwyn LL29 8AW
www.heddlugogleddcymru.police.uk

Police Headquarters,
Glan-y-Don, Colwyn Bay LL29 8AW
www.northwales.police.uk

6. Please state if the income from the courses is used for any specific purpose or whether it is returned to general funds.

Not applicable

7. Please state the overall number of people who have received a diversionary, educational or intervention outcome for cannabis possession in each of the calendar years from 2015 to 2025 to date.

Unfortunately we don't have this data specific for cannabis as all DEP referrals may include other substances. Checkpoint went live 2019

8. Of persons who received a diversionary, educational or intervention outcome for cannabis possession in the 2025 calendar year, please state the persons with the five largest number of previous diversionary, educational or intervention outcomes on their police record.

Please see the answer to question 4

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 19/11/2025