



**HEDDLU
GOGLEDD CYMRU
NORTH WALES
POLICE**

Response Date:15/12/2025

2025/1198 - Drink Driving Offences

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;

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request information on drink driving offences and roadside breath testing within your force area.

For clarity, this request relates specifically to drink driving offences under Section 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 (driving or attempting to drive with alcohol level above the prescribed limit).

If your force records drink driving offences under different offence codes, contravention codes, or internal classifications, please provide the equivalent data for offences relating to driving or attempting to drive over the prescribed alcohol limit.

Please exclude drug driving offences recorded under Section 4 and Section 5A of the Road Traffic Act 1988 where possible. If your recording system does not allow drink driving offences to be separated from drug driving offences, please provide the combined figure and state clearly that the data includes both drink and drug driving offences.

Please provide the following for each calendar month in 2022, 2023 and 2024:
1. The total number of drink driving arrests 2. The total number of roadside breath tests conducted 3. The total number of roadside breath tests where the driver was recorded as being over the legal alcohol limit 4. The highest evidential breath alcohol reading (μg per 100ml) recorded in that month

Clarification

As standard we include 'Failed to Provide' offences with drink drive offences, would you please clarify if you would be happy to also receive this data?

Clarification received

Yes, I am happy for 'Failed to Provide' offences to be included within the drink driving figures.

The total number of drink driving arrests

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

Month	2022	2023	2024
Jan	60	90	58
Feb	69	82	65
Mar	67	87	69
Apr	71	66	87
May	92	83	72
Jun	86	65	59
Jul	84	104	70
Aug	95	94	73
Sep	74	73	63
Oct	65	76	75
Nov	90	65	85
Dec	61	79	61
Total	914	964	837

The total number of roadside breath tests conducted:

Month	2022	2023
Jan	623	193
Feb	428	362
Mar	398	489
Apr	503	251
May	714	234
Jun	500	111
Jul	364	69
Aug	490	153
Sep	327	264
Oct	278	226
Nov	290	
Dec	977	
Grand Total	5892	2352

Please note: we cannot provide breath test data beyond October 2023 as there are issues with our database.

The number of arrests following a positive roadside breath test:

Row Labels	2022	2023	2024
Jan	54	76	52
Feb	60	74	53
Mar	62	80	60
Apr	58	61	80
May	84	73	61
Jun	78	62	49
Jul	72	92	62
Aug	85	85	69
Sep	66	64	56
Oct	59	68	70
Nov	81	57	71
Dec	58	72	53
Total	817	864	736

Our information is set up and searchable for our policing purposes. To obtain the information in the format you have requested regarding the highest evidential breath alcohol reading 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 12/12/2025