



Response Date: 29/12/2025

2025/1309 - Missing Persons Statistics and Resource Impact (Last Five Years)

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 be grateful if you could provide the following information relating to missing person reports recorded by your force over the last five complete calendar years (or financial years, if this is how the data is held):

1. The total number of individuals reported missing in each year.

2020 – 3,116
2021 – 3,242
2022 – 4,092
2023 – 4,944
2024 – 5,242

**2. Of those reported missing, how many individuals were:
a) Located or traced within 24 hours of being reported missing.**

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.

**3. The number of reported missing persons who were recorded as having:
a) Dementia
b) Alzheimer's disease
(or other recorded cognitive impairments, if grouped together).**

All classed under Dementia incidents for classification purposes:

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

2020 – Unable to provide data
2021 – Unable to provide data
2022 – Data point starts 01/07/2022 = 51
2023 – 84
2024 – 117

- 4. Any recorded data or estimates held by your force regarding:**
a) The average number of officer and/or staff hours spent per missing person investigation,
b) Or, if individual averages are not recorded, the total officer/staff hours attributed to missing person investigations per year.

North Wales Police do not hold this data.

However, please see link to a report undertaken by Portsmouth University in 2012 to show National averages, as per your request –

[Establishing the Cost of Missing Persons Investigations.pdf](#)

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 24/12/2025