



**HEDDLU
GOGLEDD CYMRU
NORTH WALES
POLICE**

Response Date: 17/02/2025

2025/165 - Stolen Phones

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;

According to Mail Online:

'Police refused to return a stolen phone to a victim because it might infringe the privacy rights of the thief who went on to use it.'

<https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.dailymail.co.uk%2Fnews%2Farticle-14364819%2FPolice-refuse-burglary-victims-phone-GDPR.html&data=05%7C02%7CFreedomofInformationTeam%40northwales.police.uk%7C26744167ca02444113ab08dd4697dfdd%7C4e86b176a10e43bd8d27927f44d0e665%7C0%7C0%7C638744340320647669%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMtIsIkFOIjoITWFpbCIsIlIdUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=63AIeprDo5Fc6yfnogVGMuXqDui8X9nvI4bU%2BSKANnM%3D&reserved=0>

1. Please provide your policy on returning stolen phones to their owners in circumstances where they contain the thieves' personal information.

North Wales Police do not hold a policy on 'returning stolen phones to their owners in circumstances where they contain the thieves' personal information'.

Please find below a link to the North Wales Police website and a statement which addresses the misleading news headlines:

[Police statement regarding misleading news headlines | North Wales Police](#)

2. Please provide the number of phones reported stolen since 1/1/24.

All occurrences of Theft From the Person, with Gen Prop Description of "MPA":

17.

Acquisitive crime Offences with keyword search of mobile in occurrence summary:

209.

3. Please provide the number of stolen phones returned to victims since 1/1/24.

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.

4. Please provide the number of stolen phones you recovered since 1/1/24 you decided not to return to the owners because they contained the personal information of the thieves or others.

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THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 14/02/2025