



Response Date:11/03/2025

2025/278 - Wynnstay hunt

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

I would like a full breakdown of the total costs involved in respect of an armed police, with helicopters response to attend a report by the Wynnstay hunt supporters today, 1st March 2025 of weapons being present by those monitoring the hunt.

This request should include, from the cradle to the grave;
Total numbers of all personnel used from the initial call to signing off this report?
The grades of all officers involved?
The number of man hours involved and the total cost involved to police this incident.

North Wales Police officers - 9 Local Policing Officers and a Sergeant were assigned to the initial response, plus a Dog Handler and 2-Armed Response Vehicles (4 officers) in a non-armed/authorised capacity.

We do not record activity-based costs therefore we do not hold the number of officer hours

The number of vehicles used and the total cost to the public using these vehicles.?

4 vehicles. We do not record activity-based costs therefore we do not hold the number of officer hours

Number of helicopters used and total cost to fly these from start to finish and whilst in attendance at the incident ?

North Wales Police do not own and operate a force aircraft, and do not hold the information requested.

West Yorkshire Police are the lead force for the National Police Air Service and now own and operate all the Police helicopters in England and Wales.

You may wish to re-direct your request to NPAS;
[Requesting Information | National Police Air Service](#)

Number of hours and cost, involved in writing up and filing reports by all those in attendance ?

We do not record activity-based costs therefore we do not hold the number of officer hours

The total number of people actually searched at the incident for weapons ?

North Wales do not hold this information, Cheshire Police dealt with the suspects.

The total number of weapons, which resulted in the need for the response witnessed, found/seized?

The number of arrests made?

The number of people charged?

For clarity, one knows that Knives present and reported to police, at hunts. doesn't warrant a response from North Wales Police, so precisely what weapons were reported as being present that resulted in an armed police response on the scale witnessed?

What actions have been taken in respect of the person who reported weapons being present?

Has this person been interviewed?

Has this person produced evidence of weapons being present?

Has this person been, or will be, arrested for wasting police time and resources, if not why not?

What evidence do North Wales Police hold that has proven such weapons, as those clearly reported and which sparked the response that it did, have ever been present at any hunt, ever, by those reported of this crime?

Concerns have been raised in relation to disclosing information relating to an ongoing investigation into the public domain therefore, the following exemptions have been engaged:

Section 30 Investigations and proceedings conducted by the public authority

Section 30 (1)(a)(b) 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.

Harm

To provide specific details relating to a criminal investigation would have a detrimental effect on the investigation, any future proceedings or appeals process.

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. It would also give a full understanding of the case.

Considerations against disclosure – Section 30

If North Wales Police released the details of investigations (ongoing or not), it could prejudice law enforcement or potentially damage the criminal justice system.

Providing information held would enable individuals to become aware of exactly what was reported and the investigation. Also, on the contrary to the factors in favour of disclosure any disclosure would set a precedent as to how North Wales Police deals with such investigations which may inhibit the ability to prevent and detect crime in the future, as individuals may well be less inclined to co-operate with the police if they were aware that the information they provide, or is held by North Wales Police would likely be disclosed to the world in circumstances sitting outside the criminal justice 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.

Why did North Wales Police deem the phone call made ,which sparked the response. as being credible? Not a fake call?

All calls to NWP are treated as genuine unless there is evidence to the contrary, and the response assessed before deployment

What was the rank, and name of the officer who made the call to send an armed response with helicopters and what factual evidence did he base this call on?

Please re-direct this question to Cheshire Police

Why are reports of knives present at hunts not investigated?

Any report of illegally held weapons would be assessed and an appropriate response considered.

Why are untrained, unchecked and unlicensed people allowed to act as security at hunts?

We do not hold information in relation to this question. This would appear to be a civil law question and not a policing matter.

Why are such people never questioned and checked for weapons ?

Under section 1 of PACE, a police constable may stop, detain, and search any person or vehicle in a public place, as long as the officer has 'reasonable grounds' for suspecting that they will find stolen or prohibited articles

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 10/03/2025