



Response Date: 11/03/2025

2025/283 - Armed police incident 1/3/25 at Wynnstay Fox Hunt

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

I am requesting information regarding the police response to the incident involving the Wynnstay Hunt on 1st March 2025 during which significant public resources were deployed.

According to reports, the response included:

One or two police helicopters in the air for two hours, Ten police vehicles, Eight armed officers,

A response based on allegations that monitors and hunt saboteurs were carrying weapons, yet no weapons were found and no arrests were made.

Given that this operation was publicly funded, I request the following information:

**Total cost of the police response, including:
Helicopter deployment and flight time;**

Please see previous response 235-25 attached

Total number of Officer hours (armed and unarmed) for this operation at the date of your response;

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

Vehicle costs (fuel, operational expenses);

This information is not held.

Details of the allegations made that led to such a high-level police deployment.

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.

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



Response Date: 26/02/2025

2025/235 – Helicopter

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

Please disclose how many times the force helicopter has been deployed since January 1 2023

For each incident, please disclose the time the request to deploy was received.

For each incident, please then also disclose the time the helicopter took off.

Additionally, please disclose the total annual maintenance bill for the force helicopter for the following calendar years (Jan 1 to Dec 31)

**2022
2023
2024**

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.

Please see the below link for more information:

[Contact Us | National Police Air Service](#)

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 21/02/2025