



Response Date: **14/05/2025**

2025/448 Review

In response to your recent request for a review;

Original Request

I'd like to ask for documentation between Bangor University and North Wales Police mentioning the word "Palestine" and "encampment" from May 2024 to March 2025.

Original response

You were provided with a previous similar response 31/2025 where the response is the same to your request.

Harm has been identified in providing you with the requested information;

A Freedom of Information Act request is not a private transaction. Both the request itself, and any information disclosed, are considered suitable for open publication. This is because, under Freedom of Information, any information disclosed is released into the wider public domain, effectively to the world and not just to one individual.

Therefore, Section 31 (1) (a) Law Enforcement is to be considered as part of the Public Interest Test. A Public Interest Test has been carried out to weigh up the reasons for and against disclosure of the information requested, to ensure the release is in the interest of the public as a whole and not just the applicant.

Section 31 (1) (a) Considerations

North Wales Police are charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve.

While we appreciate you will have no ill meaning behind your request, disclosure could be used by those with criminal intent against the North Wales Police or the UK as intelligence against North Wales Police resources, knowledge at a given point in time and law enforcement tactics to undermine policing efforts. It is not in the public interest to disclose information that could be used to assist in the planning of criminal activity, due to an adverse FOIA disclosure.

Section 31 factors in favour of disclosure

The use of police resources and tactics is a matter that the force should hold up to public scrutiny as the police are accountable for public funds and public safety; therefore there is a public interest in justification of the spending of these funds and how the public are kept safe.

Section 31 factors in favour of non-disclosure

Disclosure would lead to a loss of confidence in the North Wales Police and UK ability to protect the safety of the community (for example, following an adverse FOIA disclosure regarding resources, tactics or local intelligence).

The risks to individuals and the community is likely to be significant if the information is used by those with the necessary criminal intent to undermine the very purpose information is held (crime prevention and detection at a national scale).

Extra security measures and policing resources may need to be put into place with the disclosure of this information. This is because of the risk disclosure brings in that it could be used as intelligence by those with the necessary criminal intent to undermine policing in different parts of the UK based on the content of the full minutes.

Balance Test

The strongest reason favouring disclosure is increasing public knowledge of a policing conversation and North Wales Police being open and transparent.

The strongest reason favouring non-disclosure is to not undermine law enforcement tactics, methodology and resources by virtue of an adverse FOIA disclosure.

On weighing up the competing interests I have determined that the disclosure of the above information would not be in the public interest. I consider that the benefit that would result from the information being disclosed does not outweigh the considerations favouring non-disclosure.

I appreciate this is not the decision you would have liked for this part of your request. However this decision has been made on the understanding that the public interest is not what interests the public but is what would be of greater interest to the public as a whole, should the information be disclosed.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under section 17 (1) of the legislation.

Request for review

I'd like to request an internal review of this FOI response from North Wales Police. I would like to request an internal review of the FOI response from North Wales Police because I am unhappy with your disclosure to me.

North Wales Police is subject to the Anti Racism Wales Action Plan, and one of these chapters is on Crime and Justice. A core part of the Anti Racism Wales Action Plan is community cohesion, with the goal to tackle racism through building cohesive and integrated communities. This looks like supporting community cohesion, and to use the levers within the Welsh government to work with partners to create a radical approach to improve outcomes to tackle systemic racism in Wales. It is favourable to disclose this information to increase public knowledge in policing, especially given the dynamic of the Welsh Language Act and the Welsh Language measures within North Wales Police. We cannot understand if North Wales Police are supporting community cohesion amongst groups with protected characteristics under the Equality Act to support the building of integrated communities within North Wales.

Under the Human Rights Act, there is a freedom of assembly and a right to protest, and Wales is seeking to support the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. As you know, the Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic population has grown from 1% in 1991 to 6.7% in 2021, which has huge implications for the right to protest around topics such as Palestine, and the encampments that have

There is a deep public interest in the work of North Wales Police around the themes of public scrutiny: the police are accountable for public funds and public safety, and therefore, it is in the public interest to disclose this FOI request. It is unclear how a disclosure could support criminal activity, or lead to a loss of public trust in North Wales Police given their track record in this area.

Review response

We have reviewed the response provided to your request and taken note of your reasons for review. Whilst we appreciate our need to be open and transparent, we also need to ensure our ability to complete our role is not hindered.

As part of the review it has come to light that we do not have all the information in a central location. To attempt to locate all documentation would involve keyword searches being carried out and then manual searches to ensure relevance to your request.

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.

However, any documentation identified will include tactical information, intelligence, safeguarding and crime prevention and University and Police resources all of which if disclosed would be detrimental to our Law Enforcement role. Therefore, the response provided to your original response is upheld.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST UNDER THE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 12/05/2025