



Response Date:17/07/2025

2025/721 - Big Cats

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

- **Within the last 5 years, how many 'big cat' sightings have been recorded within the counties of North Wales? (This would exclude anything regarding 'domestic-size' cats, with the report potentially mentioning either panther/black leopard, lynx or puma/mountain lion-type sightings/encounters)**
 - o **Broken down by month and location if possible.**
- **Could the approx. location of each sighting please be disclosed, as well as whether an officer followed-up, in-person, on the report - and if there was any outcome to the animal**

Our information is set up and searchable for our policing purposes. There is no event type for big cat sightings. 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.

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.

We carried out a search for incidents CAD events recorded 2020-2025 with reference to the following keywords: Cougar/Big Cat/Large Cat/Cheetah/Panther/Wild Cat/Leopard/Lynx/Lion/Tiger/Puma. A further search was then conducted using only the terms in your request i.e. 'panther/black leopard, lynx or puma/mountain lion'.

However, 'leopard' brought back clothing descriptions, and lynx and puma are brand names so returned over 1000 records.

We were able to obtain one occurrence relevant to your request:

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

Start Date	Initial Sub Type	Comment
2020	ANIMAL/WILDLIFE	LARGE ANIMAL POSS A PANTHERSEEN - HEAD A SIZE OF A DINNER PLATE BY A LONE WALKER

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 14/07/2025