



**HEDDLU
GOGLEDD CYMRU
NORTH WALES
POLICE**

Response Date: 18/09/2025

2025/917 - Investigations, Policies and Procedures

In response to your recent request for information excess cost is relevant to part which removes 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.

1. Investigations Conducted by Special Constables

- **Please confirm whether North Wales Police has *any* policy, protocol, or instruction governing situations where Special Constables investigate complaints against other Special Constables. If such material exists, please provide copies.**

No information held.

Members of the Special Constabulary are not allocated complaint matters for "investigation".

- **How many occasions in the last five years has a Special Constable acted as lead investigator into allegations or complaints involving another Special Constable?**

Nil

- **Please confirm whether Special Constables tasked with complaint investigations are required to declare potential conflicts of interest before being allocated to a case, and provide a copy of the relevant process or form (or confirm none exist).**

N/A

2. Disclosure and Exculpatory Evidence

- **Please confirm whether the Force maintains written guidance, training materials, or internal policies addressing the duty to disclose *exculpatory evidence* to the defence. If such documents exist, please provide them.**
- **What internal oversight mechanisms are in place (or confirm none exist) to ensure that potentially exculpatory material is not withheld from a suspect or defendant?**

Disclosure, including exculpatory disclosure guidance in cases, is covered by AGG and DG6 as per the attached.

The guidance covers the relevancy test, undermining evidence and the process for this to be disclosed in any case material.

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

**Yn gwneud Gogledd Cymru'r lle mwyaf diogel i fyw, gweithio ac ymweld yn y DU
Making North Wales the safest place to live, work and visit in the UK**

It would be for CPS, the prosecutor, to determine what is disclosed to the defence including undermining evidence.

There are no policy documents held to answer the question.

- **Please confirm whether North Wales Police keeps a central log of occasions where officers or staff have been found by a court or external body to have failed in their disclosure duties. If no such log exists, please confirm.**

NWP's Disclosure material is sourced from national guidance (currently The Directors Guidance Sixth edition). We do not record disclosure errors, omissions or failures.

- **Please state whether North Wales Police has ever disciplined an officer for failure to disclose exculpatory evidence in the last ten years, and if so, provide figures broken down by year.**

Clarification requested

Please could you clarify "disciplined" as unclear of whether this relates to formal misconduct proceedings or other matters.

Clarification received

The term "disciplined" is not ambiguous. It is the word employed by Parliament itself to encompass the full range of sanctions available against police officers — from formal misconduct proceedings through to warnings and lesser censure. If you wish to annotate your disclosure with explanations of how your internal processes categorise these measures, you are free to do so.

There are 445 misconduct cases and 4986 complaint cases, which would require a manual review. 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.

- **Please provide details of any occasions in the last five years where material later determined to be exculpatory was withheld until after conviction.**

The exemption used above is relevant to this question also, as we would have to manually search all cases to locate information relevant to your question.

- **Please provide details (or confirm none exist) of audits, reviews, or disciplinary proceedings in the last five years that referenced failures to disclose exculpatory material.**

Nil for disciplinary proceedings.

3. Single Justice Procedure (SJP) and Statements of Truth

- **Please confirm whether North Wales Police holds any policies, memoranda, or staff instructions concerning the drafting or use of Statements of Truth in SJP prosecutions. If such material exists, please disclose it.**
- **Please confirm whether officers or staff completing Statements of Truth for SJP proceedings are required to personally review the evidence bundle in full before signing. If not, please explain what verification process is in place.**

- **Please provide details of any risk assessments carried out regarding the possibility of false or misleading Statements of Truth being submitted in SJP prosecutions. If none exist, please confirm.**
- **Please disclose whether North Wales Police holds any policy on what corrective action is taken if a Statement of Truth is later found to be inaccurate.**
- **Please set out what safeguards or checks are in place (or confirm none exist) to ensure Statements of Truth submitted under SJP are factually accurate and complete.**

The above points are all covered by National SJP guidance and procedures.

- **Please confirm the number of cases in the last three years that were withdrawn, discontinued, or otherwise defective due to issues with Statements of Truth or evidential deficiencies in SJP proceedings.**

This point is not relevant to the Police as HMCTS should hold the data.

4. Professional Standards Department (PSD) Oversight

- **Please confirm how many complaints have been lodged in the last five years *about* PSD officers or staff (including those not escalated to the IOPC).**

43

- **Please provide any internal reports or summaries (or confirm none exist) produced by PSD for Chief Officers, OPCC, IOPC, or HMICFRS that assess PSD's own performance in complaint handling.**

PCC

The PCC publish an annual report that covers PSD scrutiny reporting which includes complaints.

[OPCC North Wales Annual Reports | Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner North Wales](#)

IOPC

NWP provide complaint data which is published on a quarterly basis.

[North Wales Police | Independent Office for Police Conduct \(IOPC\)](#)

HMICFRS

We do not provide oversight reports for complaints to HMICFRS

Chief Officers

The quarterly IOPC oversight data is shared with the chief officers. Please see link above for data.

- **Please disclose any policy documents (or confirm none exist) governing how PSD maintains impartiality and independence in the investigation of internal complaints.** PSD operates within the relevant legislation and IOPC Statutory Guidance which are published online already by HM Government and IOPC.
- **Please confirm whether any PSD officers themselves have been subject to complaint investigations in the last five years, and if so, how many were upheld.**

13 PSD Officers subject of complaint investigation, one case is live, one case was deemed "service not acceptable", one case was determined "unable to determine level of service" and remainder were "service acceptable"

- **Please provide any policy or internal guidance addressing whether PSD is permitted to investigate itself, or whether an external body must be engaged in such circumstances.**

PSD operates within the relevant legislation and IOPC Statutory Guidance which are published online already by HM Government and IOPC

There are no North Wales Police policy/guidance documents held to answer the question.

5. General Governance & Transparency

- **Please confirm whether North Wales Police has ever refused a court disclosure order on the grounds of “sensitivity” or “operational security” in the past five years, and if so, how many times.**

The exemption used above is relevant to this question also, as we would have to manually search all cases to locate information relevant to your question.

- **Please provide details of any training or policy documents instructing officers on how to balance the public interest in disclosure against internal reputational risk.**

Attorney General's Guidelines 2020

[Attorney General's Guidelines 2020 FINAL Effective 31Dec2020.pdf](#).

We also received a presentation/guidance that covers the relevancy test, undermining evidence and the process for this to be disclosed in any case material.

It would be for CPS, the prosecutor, to determine what is disclosed to the defence including undermining evidence.

- **Please confirm whether the Chief Constable receives regular reports specifically flagging failures in disclosure, complaint handling, or SJP prosecutions, and if so, please provide the reporting schedule and the last three such reports.**

No.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 16/09/2025