



HEDDLU
GOGLEDD CYMRU
NORTH WALES
POLICE

Response Date:13/08/2026

2026/736 - Devolution of policing functions to Wales

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

I am writing to request the following information held by the force which would assist in estimating the potential one-off transition costs and ongoing annual costs associated with the devolution of policing functions to Wales:

- **What is the force's total annual policing budget: please provide a breakdown of sources from which this funding is provided, including – but not limited to – Home Office grants, council tax precepts, other income. Please provide this information on the latest fiscal year for which you hold data.**

The FY26-27 Net Revenue Budget is £227.911 million broken down by:

- Precept £122.963 million
- Core Government Grant £104.948m broken down as follows:
 - Revenue Support Grant WO £15.683 million
 - NDR Grant Welsh Office £0.242 million
 - Sec 31 Specific Police Grant £62.175 million
 - Home Office Floor Grant £26.848 million

In addition, the Force has budgeted for Specific Grants of £23.257 million broken down as follows:

Specific Grant	£ million	Funding Source
PENSION GRANT	4.686	Home Office
HO NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICNG GRANT	3.768	Home Office
COMM SUPPORT OFFICER FUNDING	3.301	Welsh Government
EMPLOYER N.I. GRANT	3.003	Home Office
PCC VICTIMS COMMISSIONING	2.902	Ministry of Justice/Welsh Govt VAWDASV Funding
ARRIVE ALIVE FUNDING	2.724	Welsh Government
DBS FUNDING	1.071	Disclosure & Barring Service
PFI GRANT	0.93	Home Office
POLICE APPRENTICESHIP GRANT (PEQF)	0.491	Home Office
POCA INCOME TFR TO DIVISIONS	0.226	Home Office
CYBER GRANT	0.155	Home Office
Grand Total	23.257	

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Police Headquarters,
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Yn gwneud Gogledd Cymru'r lle mwyaf diogel i fyw, gweithio ac ymweld yn y DU
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Concerns have been raised in relation to providing specific funding streams supporting sensitive policing functions. Therefore, a public Interest Test has been carried out to weigh up the reasons for and against disclosure; to ensure the release is in the interest of the public as a whole and not just the applicant.

Section s31(1)(a)(b) Law Enforcement
Section 24 (1) National Security

Section 31 (1)(a)(b) and Section 24 (1) are prejudice based qualified exemption, therefore there is a requirement to articulate the harm that would be caused in confirming or not that the information is held as well as carrying out a public interest test.

HARM 24(1), 31(1)

The information relates to specific funding streams supporting sensitive policing functions.

Disclosure would provide information regarding the funding allocated to those functions and increase public understanding of the resources available to support them.

The release of information relating to sensitive policing capabilities would be likely to prejudice law enforcement by providing greater insight into areas of specialist policing activity. In addition, disclosure may adversely affect national security by revealing information concerning capabilities which contribute to protecting the public from threats to national security.

As information disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act is released into the public domain, disclosure would be available to anyone seeking to understand the nature and extent of those capabilities.

Factors favouring disclosure - There is a legitimate public interest in transparency and accountability regarding the use of public funds. Disclosure would assist public understanding of police funding arrangements and allow the public to better understand how policing services are funded.

Factors favouring maintaining the exemptions - The withheld information relates to funding provided for sensitive policing functions. There is a strong public interest in ensuring that information is not disclosed where it would be likely to prejudice law enforcement activity or adversely affect national security. Disclosure would provide greater insight into specialist policing capabilities and the resources available to support them. There is a significant public interest in protecting information which could undermine the effectiveness of those capabilities or assist those seeking to act against the interests of public safety.

Balance Test - North Wales Police recognises the public interest in openness and accountability concerning the expenditure of public funds. However, greater weight is attached to the public interest in safeguarding law enforcement capabilities and protecting national security. The public interest therefore favours maintaining the exemptions.

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

• In relation to your force, what are the estimated costs associated with moving to a devolved policing model: please include an estimated costing breakdown of how much transition to a devolved policing model would cost initially (one-off, upfront costs) and the ongoing costs (cost per annum). Please provide any recorded information held by the force, including assessments, modelling, scenario planning, correspondence, briefings or business cases.

North Wales Police have not carried out any financial modelling work associated with the devolution of policing and as such are unable to answer the questions.

• Please provide any recorded information held on the predicted workforce costs associated with the devolution of policing services.

North Wales Police have not carried out any financial modelling work associated with the devolution of policing and as such are unable to answer the questions.

• Please provide any recorded information held on the estimated costs on facilitating cross-border policing arrangements between England and Wales (including counterterrorism, forensics and air support) and the associated estimated costs should policing be devolved to Wales.

North Wales Police have not carried out any financial modelling work associated with the devolution of policing and as such are unable to answer the questions.

• Please provide any recorded information held on the estimated costs of implementing the ICT, digital, estates and other infrastructure systems which would be required should policing services be devolved to Wales.

North Wales Police have not carried out any financial modelling work associated with the devolution of policing and as such are unable to answer the questions.

• Please provide any recorded information held on current collaborative agreements shared services, regional arrangements or UK-wide policing functions used by the force, including the annual cost of participation where available, and any information held on how these arrangements may be affected by policing devolution.

In terms of UK wide functions, they are as follows:

- National Police Air Service – FY26/27 budget being £52.970m with North Wales Police contribution of £0.479m
- NPCC National Operating Model – FY26/27 budget covering thirty different workstream with North Wales Police contribution of £0.310m. Of the thirty workstream North Wales Police is the lead on
 - Forensic Collision Investigation Network which has a total budget of £2.990m
 - Opal with a total budget of £0.769m plus Home Office funding of £1.67m
- Main Northwest and North Wales collaborative arrangements are set out in the below table together with North Wales contribution based on either FY26/27 budget or FY25/26 actual:

Collaboration	North Wales Contribution £k	Basis	Notes
Armed Alliance	4,484	FY26/27 Budget	North Wales and Cheshire
North West Regional Organised Crime Unit	2,122	FY26/27 Budget	North Wales, Merseyside, Cheshire, GMP, Lancashire and Cumbria
Telecomm SPOC Alliance	734	FY26/27 Budget	North Wales and Cheshire
Niche RMS (West Cost) Collaboration	724	FY26/27 Budget	North Wales, Dyfed Powys, Cheshire and Merseyside (Staff and IT Funding)
North West Armed Alliance Collaboration	138	FY25/26 Actual	North Wales, Merseyside, Cheshire and Cumbria
Insourcing Forensics	130	FY26/27 Budget	North Wales, Merseyside, Cheshire, Lancashire and Cumbria
Underwater Search Unit	93	FY26/27 Budget	North Wales, Merseyside, Cheshire, GMP, Lancashire and Cumbria

Concerns have been raised in relation to providing to specific collaborative policing arrangements. Therefore, a public Interest Test has been carried out to weigh up the reasons for and against disclosure; to ensure the release is in the interest of the public as a whole and not just the applicant.

Section s31(1)(a)(b) Law Enforcement

Section 31 (1)(a)(b) is a prejudice based qualified exemption, therefore there is a requirement to articulate the harm that would be caused in confirming or not that the information is held as well as carrying out a public interest test.

HARM - The information relates to specific collaborative policing arrangements and the resources committed to them.

Disclosure would provide a greater understanding of the scale and nature of specialist capabilities available to North Wales Police through regional and national partnerships. This would reveal information regarding the resourcing of those functions and the extent to which the force relies upon collaborative arrangements to deliver particular policing services.

The release of information which provides insight into police capability and capacity would be likely to prejudice the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders. As information disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act is released into the public domain, disclosure would be available to anyone seeking to understand or exploit that information.

Factors favouring disclosure - There is a legitimate public interest in transparency and accountability regarding collaborative policing arrangements and the expenditure of public funds. Disclosure would assist public understanding of how services are delivered and the extent to which North Wales Police works with other forces and organisations.

Factors favouring maintaining the exemption - The withheld information would provide greater insight into specialist policing capabilities and the resources available to support them.

There is a strong public interest in ensuring information is not disclosed where it would be likely to prejudice the prevention and detection of crime or undermine the effectiveness of law enforcement activity.

Disclosure would reveal information regarding the scale and nature of particular collaborative capabilities and could reduce the operational effectiveness of those arrangements.

Balance Test - North Wales Police recognises the public interest in openness and accountability regarding collaborative working arrangements and the use of public funds. However, greater weight is attached to the public interest in protecting information where disclosure would be likely to prejudice law enforcement activity. North Wales Police has therefore concluded that the balance of the public interest favours maintaining the exemption.

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

• Please provide any recorded information held by the force which contains overall costing estimate of how much you predict the cost of devolving policing to Wales to cost, including assumptions, scenario analysis or financial modelling.

North Wales Police have not carried out any financial modelling work associated with the devolution of policing and as such are unable to answer the questions.

Please provide any internal assessments, business cases or modelling undertaken by the force relating to the financial implications of devolving policing to Wales within this request.

North Wales Police have not carried out any financial modelling work associated with the devolution of policing and as such are unable to answer the questions.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 12/08/2026