



Response Date:09/10/2026

2026/1017 - Sexual offender management licenses

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

- 1) The total number of licenses to e-Safe remote monitoring software the force currently possesses.**
- 2) The total number of licenses currently in use among offenders in the community, covered by the force.**
- 3) Total number of offenders assessed as needing to be monitored using e-Safe in the force area.**
- 4) Total number of offenders assessed as needing monitoring through e-safe but awaiting a license, as of 29/09/2026, in your force area.**

Should the request likely be unsuccessful, please could you advise me as to how I can change or refine my request to get a successful response?

Concerns have been raised in relation to providing the information requested. 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 31(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.

The Harm Test process requires North Wales Police to consider any possible harm that might arise as a result of placing the requested information into the public domain. This process considers the potential harm to:

- Individuals
- The community as a whole
- North Wales Police and the wider policing service
- Other bodies

Overall Harm

As you will be aware, any release under the FOIA is a disclosure to the world, not just to the individual making the request. Whilst not questioning the motives of the applicant, the disclosure of specific detail about the software used/the number of licenses available would place into the public domain information that could be used by offenders to circumvent the system and evade detection.

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Public Interest Considerations

Factors favouring disclosure of information for Section 31

The public are entitled to know how public funds are spent and by disclosing this information the public would be able to see where public money is being spent and know that North Wales Police are doing as much as they can to monitor Registered Sex Offenders.

Factors against disclosure of information Section 31

North Wales Police has a duty of care to the community at large and public safety is of paramount importance. If an FOI disclosure were to reveal information to the world, it would not only compromise and undermine the Police's ability to prevent and detect crime and apprehend offenders, but also the effective delivery of operational law enforcement as offenders, could use this knowledge to their advantage which would compromise public safety and more worryingly encourage offenders to carry out further crimes.

This is because whilst it is not a covert tactic, offenders could seek to exploit the information requested as it would inadvertently advise them of the number of remaining licences. Therefore, giving offenders information on how and when they go about any clandestine activity via the internet (i.e. knowledge that they may be unlikely to become subject of e-safe could give them a sense of protection and assist in informing their approach as to when it may be "safe" to conduct certain activities).

Balancing Test

The points above highlight the merits of not disclosing information pertinent to this request. The Police Service is charged with enforcing the law, preventing, and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve.

Whilst there is a strong public interest in the transparency of policing technology, North Wales Police will not divulge information if it is likely that it will compromise the work of the Police Service or place members of the public at risk. Disclosure of the requested information would highlight areas that could be exploited by criminal organisations and individuals.

This will adversely affect North Wales Police's ability to detect and prevent crime, as it may alter the behaviours of those intent on criminal activity. This could put members of the public at risk and hinder law enforcement. It is, therefore, our belief that the balance test lies in favour of not disclosing the information.

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 08/10/2026