



Response Date:14/10/2026

2026/1054 - St Asaph murder

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

In relation to the murder of Harold Turner in St Asaph on December 25, 2025, North Wales Police referred itself to the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC).

The IOPC were then quoted as saying: "After assessing the information provided by the force, we have decided that an investigation is required and that it is appropriate for that to be carried out locally by North Wales Police.

"We will maintain a level of oversight as they will need to share with us their investigation report, for review, if no conduct issues are identified by them."

Please could a copy of this report, assuming it has been completed, be disclosed?

North Wales Police can confirm that information is held in relation to your request however concerns have been raised in relation to disclosing the requested information, therefore a Public Interest Test has been carried out;

Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires North Wales Police, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states that fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

The exemption/s, as well as the factors considered when deciding where the public interest lies, are listed below:

Section 30(1) - Investigations and proceedings conducted by public authorities
Section 31(1) - Law enforcement
Section 38(1) - Health and safety
Section 40(2) -Personal Information

Sections 31 and 38 are prejudice based qualified exemptions and any prejudice (harm) that confirming or denying information is held would cause must be articulated as well as the public interest considerations.

Section 30 is a class based qualified exemption and consideration of the public interest must be given as to whether neither confirming nor denying the information exists is the appropriate response.

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

Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption which means that there is no need to quantify the harm that may arise from the disclosure; neither is it subject to a public interest test.

To release personal or third-party information held by North Wales Police, would breach the data protection principles; namely –

- Data is lawfully and fairly processed.
- Processed in line with an individual's rights.
- Data is secure.

Personal and third-party information cannot be released under the Freedom of Information Act. Disclosure under Freedom of Information is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant.

Harm

The Freedom of Information Act is applicant and motive blind. Any information disclosed under the Act is a disclosure to the world at large and would be disclosed to any individual upon request. For this reason a request under the Act cannot be a private transaction. Both the request itself, and any information which may be disclosed, are considered suitable for open publication.

The public expect police forces to use all powers and tactics available to prevent and detect crime and maintain public safety. The report requested not only contains personal information but it also contains details not in the public domain that would highly likely to cause distress and upset to individuals concerned/family or friends.

Furthermore, it also contains operational details such as systems used, and tactical details. Therefore, if we were to provide the report requested it could prejudice our law enforcement functions of preventing and detecting crime, and apprehending and prosecuting offenders by giving operational information.

Public Interest Test

Section 30

Factors Favouring Disclosure

The disclosure of this information would adhere to the general principle of openness and transparency, by providing better awareness which may reduce crime or lead to more information from the public.

It would provide information as to what investigations are being carried out in relation to this case.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Any information generated by an investigation needs to be treated with sensitivity. It would not be in the public interest to disclose information which could identify our investigative activity, and subsequently undermine those processes. To do so would hinder the prevention or detection of crime, and apprehension and prosecution of offenders.

Section 31

Factors Favouring Disclosure

Release of the information requested could raise the force's accountability regarding resources.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Release of information under the Freedom of Information Act is made to the world at large, therefore, the force needs to consider the implications of what information is placed into the public domain and how this could be open to misuse.

Release of detailed investigation and case detail could reveal tactics and sensitive operational information which would be highly beneficial to those intent on causing harm, criminal activity or undermining law enforcement.

Section 38

Considerations favouring disclosure

The public can have informed discussions on the matter. Ensure North Wales Police are open and transparent.

Considerations favouring non-disclosure

It would be unfair to place into the public domain information which is likely to cause an individual, for example the family of the deceased, distress as disclosure could cause unwanted contact /attention.

Balance Test

North Wales Police will not disclose information if doing so would be highly likely to place individuals at an increased risk of harm or undermine the functions of law enforcement.

Whilst there is always a public interest in the transparency of policing operations and activity and the importance of providing assurance that the police service is employing appropriate and effective resource, this is far outweighed by the public interest in safeguarding the public and maintaining the ability to effectively prevent and detect crime.

Therefore, where release of information would be likely to negatively impact North Wales Police's ability to effectively deploy law enforcement resources or place individuals at a heightened threat of harm/distress the balance of disclosing the information is not made out. This is namely because of the impact it would have on the ability of North Wales Police to fulfil our law enforcement functions and conduct any potential investigations, either now or in the future.

Having taken the factors above into consideration, we believe that the factors opposing disclosure far outweigh those in favour and for these reasons North Wales Police withhold the requested report.

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

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THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 13/10/2026