



**HEDDLU  
GOGLEDD CYMRU  
NORTH WALES  
POLICE**

Response Date: 07/10/2026

**2026/1055 - Investigation into the disappearance**

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

**I request recorded information held by North Wales Police concerning the investigation into the disappearance of [REDACTED], who was reported missing on 25 February 2018.**

**This request is intended to seek information as it is recorded and held by North Wales Police. I am not asking North Wales Police to create new information, undertake a new investigation, form an opinion, or provide an assessment that is not already recorded.**

**1. Initial risk assessment**

**Please provide the recorded information showing:**

- a. The date on which [REDACTED] was initially assessed under the North Wales Police missing-person risk-assessment framework.**
- b. The initial recorded risk grading.**
- c. Any subsequent changes to the recorded risk grading, including, the date of the change and the recorded reason, rationale or basis for the change, insofar as this is recorded.**

**2. Initial investigative resources**

**Please provide the recorded number of police officers and/or staff allocated to the initial investigation into [REDACTED] disappearance. Where recorded, please provide a breakdown by:**

- \* rank**
- \* role**
- \* function**
- \* investigative team/unit.**

**Please also provide the recorded date or dates on which personnel were allocated to the investigation. I am not seeking the names, contact details or other information identifying individual officers or staff.**

**3. Reviews concerning third-party involvement or homicide**

**Please provide the recorded number of formal investigative reviews conducted in connection with information or intelligence suggesting possible third-party involvement or homicide. For each such review, please provide, where recorded the date of the review and the police unit, department or team responsible for conducting the review.**

**4. North Wales Police policies, procedures and frameworks a. Please provide a copy of the North Wales Police policy, procedure, guidance or framework governing the**

Pencadlys yr Heddlu,  
Glan-y-Don, Bae Colwyn LL29 8AW  
[www.heddlugogleddcymru.police.uk](http://www.heddlugogleddcymru.police.uk)

Police Headquarters,  
Glan-y-Don, Colwyn Bay LL29 8AW  
[www.northwales.police.uk](http://www.northwales.police.uk)

investigation and risk assessment of missing persons that was in force on 25 February 2018.

b. Please provide a copy of any North Wales Police policy, procedure, guidance, protocol or framework in force on 25 February 2018 concerning the circumstances in which a missing-person investigation should be escalated, referred or transferred to the Major Investigation Team (MIT).

## **5. Searches**

a. Please provide the recorded total number of searches conducted by North Wales Police in connection with [REDACTED] disappearance. Where the information is recorded in a way that permits a breakdown, please provide the number of searches by type, including where applicable: land, woodland, water/coastal, buildings or premises, vehicles, residential or commercial premises, any other recorded search category. I am solely seeking the number and category of searches, not search locations, search tactics, operational methodology or other details which could reasonably prejudice any ongoing investigation.

b. Please provide the recorded information showing whether specialist search resources were deployed in connection with the investigation. Where recorded, please identify which types of resources were deployed, including but not limited to: PoLSA resources, NPAS, search dogs, water search teams, other specialist search resources. Please provide the number of deployments or occasions on which each resource was used, where this information is recorded. Again, I am seeking the number and type of deployments.

## **6. Subsequent information and investigative reviews**

a. Please provide the recorded number of new reports, intelligence submissions, witness approaches, information reports or other recorded information received by North Wales Police concerning [REDACTED] disappearance since 1 January 2019.

b. Of the reports, intelligence submissions, witness approaches or other information received since 1 January 2019, please provide the recorded number which resulted in a recorded:

- \* New line of enquiry.
- \* Arrest and/or charge.

c. Please provide the recorded number of formal reviews of the investigation into [REDACTED] disappearance conducted since 25 February 2018. For each recorded review, please provide: the date of the review and the police unit, department or team responsible.

d. Please provide the recorded information showing whether [REDACTED] case has ever been referred to, reviewed by, or transferred to the North Wales Police Major Crime Investigation Team or any equivalent specialist homicide/major crime unit.

## **7. Family liaison**

Please provide the recorded information showing whether a dedicated Family Liaison Officer (FLO) was appointed in connection with [REDACTED] disappearance. If so, please provide:

- \* The date of appointment.
- \* The date on which the appointment ended, if recorded.

I am not seeking the officer's name, contact details or other personal information.

All requests made under Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) are applicant blind, and a Freedom of Information (FOI) request must be treated as such as a public authority will always view any disclosure as into the public domain. This is because, and the data protection rights of a third party would be breached by disclosure.

The provisions in Section 40 (1) to (4) of the Freedom of Information Act exempt personal data from disclosure and Section 1(1) (a) of the FOIA imposes a duty on a public authority to either confirm or deny if it holds information specified in a request.

However, in relation to a request which constitutes the personal data of individual(s) other than the applicant(s) (i.e. the person making the request), section 40(5)(b)(i), further excludes a public authority from complying with the duty imposed by section 1(1)(a) FOIA if complying with that duty would contravene any of the data protection principles under the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA).

Therefore, the first element that needs to be met before relying on section 40(5) (b) (i) is that the information requested should, if held, constitute the personal data of a third party (i.e. someone other than the person making the request).

Personal data is defined in the DPA as follows:

"...“Personal data” means any information relating to an identified or identifiable living individual (subject to subsection (14)(c)) [and] “Identifiable living individual” means a living individual who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to— (a)an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data or an online identifier, or (b)one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of the individual.”

As FOI requests are disclosures to the world (not just to the applicant making the request), if North Wales Police were to use exemptions against the information requested (rather rely on the use Section 40 (5)(b)(i)) this would provide the public with information about a certain individual or individuals.

However as Section 40(5) (b) (i) specifically refers to giving confirmation or denial ‘to a member of the public’ it could be argued that giving confirmation or denial to the requestor would not necessarily contravene any Data Protection Principles. Nevertheless, even if we confirmed that we held the information, and then withheld it under another exemption of the Act (e.g. Section 40 (2)) the confirmation alone would disclose personal data of the Data subject/s.

The next element I have considered is whether confirming or denying if the information requested is held, would contravene any of the Data Protection principles.

The first Data Protection principle states: ‘that the processing of personal data for any of the law enforcement purposes must be lawful and fair.’ It is our belief that confirmation or denial that North Wales Police hold the information requested would be unfair to those who may/may not fall into the remit of the request, and therefore contravention of the first data protection principle.

This is because simply confirming whether or not North Wales Police holds the information requested would provide personal information, and to do so would not be fair. If North Wales Police confirmed or denied that we held data surrounding an individual/s this would amount to the disclosure of personal data because we would be telling the world something about that individual/s.

Lastly, in terms of the legitimate interests in disclosure, the information requested would be personal to any individual/s it may or may not concern. Therefore, confirmation as to whether or not any information is in fact held would not be of any benefit to the public.

Therefore, in accordance with section 40(5)(b)(i) of the FOIA 2000, I can neither confirm nor deny that this information is held by North Wales Police. This refusal should not be taken to mean that the information you have requested exists or does not exist.

Consequently, 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 05/10/2026