



**HEDDLU**  
**GOGLEDD CYMRU**  
**NORTH WALES**  
**POLICE**

Response Date:16/02/2026

**2026/130 - Covert Human Intelligence Sources (CHIS)**

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

- **The total amount of money your force has spent on informants or Covert Human Intelligence Sources (CHIS) in each of the past two years (please use the two last full reporting years, whether this is calendar, financial or another period).**
- **The amount of money that was spent on informants in protest or activist groups**
- **The amount of this that was spent on informants in a) far right groups b) pro-Palestine groups and c) environmental groups**

|         |         |
|---------|---------|
| 2023/24 | £18,132 |
| 2024/25 | £20,115 |

North Wales Police can neither confirm nor deny whether we hold any further information in relation to your request as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) does not apply by virtue of the following exemptions:

- Section 23(5) - Information supplied by, or relating to, bodies dealing with security matters
- Section 24(2) - National Security
- Section 30(3) - Investigations

Section 23 is a class based absolute exemption and there is no requirement to consider the public interest. Confirming or denying the existence of whether any information is held would contravene the constrictions laid out within Section 23 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in that this stipulates a generic bar on disclosure of any information applied by, or concerning, certain Security Bodies.

Section 24 is a prejudiced based qualified exemption and there is a requirement to evidence the prejudice (harm) in disclosure and consider the public interest to ensure neither confirming or denying that information is held is appropriate.

Section 30 is a class based qualified exemption and there is a requirement to consider the public interest to ensure neither confirming or denying information is held is appropriate.

**Harm**

*Harm for neither confirming nor denying that any other information is held for Section 24*

Disclosure of informants data could impact on the recruitment and retention of CHIS in general, due to the perception of (rather than the actual) risk of identification. The disclosure of the requested information would damage national security through discouraging current national security CHIS from

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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)

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cooperating with the police service in other geographical areas, or preventing the recruitment of national security CHIS in the future – regardless of whether the area in question actually currently runs CHIS reporting on serious crime, terrorist or other threats.

#### *Harm for neither confirming nor denying that any other information is held for Section 31*

Disclosure of this information would be likely to prejudice North Wales police and endanger the safety of individuals and would certainly increase the likelihood of compromise.

The risks associated with any potential compromise include retribution in the form of physical and psychological harm directed at any informants, their families and their associates.

Additionally, due to the size and geographical layout of North Wales Police and the communities who reside within the force area, that risk is indeed magnified.

To confirm of information is held or not highlights the dangers where Informants may have been used to provide information in high profile or significant cases which includes protest groups, where a rise in data would tend to suggest that intelligence has been furnished about those individuals/groups involved in such criminality. The reality is that if any informants were suspected, members of any organized crime/protest groups would actively seek to identify that informant within their organisation to apportion retribution.

#### **Public Interest Test.**

#### *Factors favouring confirming or denying that any other information is held for Section 24*

Confirmation or denial that any other information exists relevant to the request would lead to a better informed public and the public are entitled to know how public funds are spent. The information simply relates to national security and disclosure would not actually harm it.

#### *Factors against confirming or denying that any other information is held for Section 24*

Other organisations outside the police service are also widely engaged in rewarding informants in a number of ways, and therefore by confirming or denying that any other information exists relevant to the request would harm the close relationship that exists with such organisations, where trust and confidence in this specific area has been built up in the exchange of information and financial assistance during the Criminal Justice process.

To confirm or deny whether North Wales Police hold any additional information would allow inferences to be made about the nature and extent of national security related activities which may or may not take place in a given area. This could enable terrorist groups to take steps to avoid detection, and as such, confirmation or denial would be damaging to national security.

By confirming or denying any policing arrangements of this nature would render national security measures less effective. This would lead to the compromise of ongoing or future operations to protect the security or infra-structure of the UK and increase the risk of harm to the public.

#### *Factors favouring confirming or denying that any other information is held for Section 30*

The confirmation or denial that information is held would provide a greater insight into policing and how resources are allocated to investigate crimes. The confirmation or denial that any other information is or is not held would identify how often North Wales Police relies on CHIS within this type of investigation.

#### *Factors against confirming or denying that any other information is held for Section 30*

To confirm or deny that any other information relevant to this request is held would provide details of any previous or on-going investigations. Informant's information assists police investigations and provides vital intelligence. To confirm that North Wales Police have used informants with previous investigations and criminal convictions in specific investigations would provide sensitive information

that would undermine policing and investigations. Investigations, although complete, may have included information from an informant of the type described and serve to undermine any investigations that have taken place based on the original investigation.

### **Balance Test**

The Police Service is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. The security and maintenance of investigations are of paramount importance and the Police service will not divulge whether information is or is not held if to do so would place the safety of an individual at risk or undermine National Security and investigations. Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of policing operations and providing assurance that the police service is appropriately and effectively engaging with the threat from criminals, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding both national security and the integrity of police investigations and operations in this highly sensitive area. As much as there is public interest in knowing that policing activity is appropriate and balanced in matters of national security, this will only be overridden in exceptional circumstances.

It is therefore our opinion that for these issues the balancing test for confirming or not that information is held, is not made out.

Therefore, 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 06/02/2026