



Response Date:03/03/2026

**2026/216 - Cannabis cultivation sites**

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

**1. Cannabis cultivation sites attended -**

**For each calendar year from 2015 to the most recent complete year available, please provide the number of sites your force has dealt with that were confirmed or suspected to be used for cannabis cultivation.**

**For the purposes of this request, a "site" refers to any address or location attended by police officers in the course of their duties where cannabis cultivation was suspected or confirmed, regardless of whether this resulted in arrest, charge, or prosecution.**

**If providing data for the full period from 2015 would exceed the cost limit under Section 12 of the Act, please instead provide the figures for the most recent five calendar years.**

**Numeric totals only are requested; no personal or case-specific information is required.**

**These requests are part of wider research that we are undertaking into cannabis farming in the UK, in order to understand both its development over recent years and its links to other issues such as exploitation, violence, modern slavery, and fire risk. Our report on findings from the research will be published later in 2026.**

|        |                                                                                                                    |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 092/21 | Production or being concerned in production of Cannabis (class B drug) - including Cultivation of a Cannabis plant |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Please find below a count of addresses linked to cannabis cultivation stats classed occurrences (whether the offence was reclassified/cancelled or not):

| Calendar Year | Count Occ Addresses |
|---------------|---------------------|
| 2015          | 81                  |
| 2016          | 60                  |
| 2017          | 54                  |
| 2018          | 54                  |
| 2019          | 50                  |

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)

**Yn gwneud Gogledd Cymru'r lle mwyaf diogel i fyw, gweithio ac ymweld yn y DU  
Making North Wales the safest place to live, work and visit in the UK**

|      |    |
|------|----|
| 2020 | 52 |
| 2021 | 62 |
| 2022 | 47 |
| 2023 | 52 |
| 2024 | 47 |
| 2025 | 39 |

|                              |
|------------------------------|
| Unique Addresses - 2015-2025 |
| 584                          |

## 2. Policies, procedures, or guidance -

**Please confirm whether your force holds any written policies, procedures, standard operating procedures, or operational guidance relating to how officers should deal with sites that are used, or suspected to be used, for cannabis cultivation.**

**If so, I would be grateful if you could:**

- **Provide a web link to the relevant material, or**
- **Attach copies of the documents to your response, or**
- **Confirm if the material is exempt from disclosure and specify the relevant exemption(s).**

North Wales Police hold a draft Standard Operating Procedure around dismantling cannabis cultivations. However, it is still awaiting ratification therefore harm has been identified in providing a copy at this moment in time.

A Freedom of Information Act request is not a private transaction. Both the request itself, and any information disclosed, are considered suitable for open publication. This is because, under Freedom of Information, any information disclosed is released into the wider public domain, effectively to the world and not just to one individual.

Therefore, Section 31 (1) (a) Law Enforcement is to be considered as part of the Public Interest Test. A Public Interest Test has been carried out to weigh up the reasons for and against disclosure of the information requested, to ensure the release is in the interest of the public as a whole and not just the applicant.

### Section 31 (1) (a) Considerations

North Wales Police are charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve.

While we appreciate you will have no ill meaning behind your request, disclosure could be used by those with criminal intent against the North Wales Police or the UK as intelligence against North Wales Police resources, knowledge at a given point in time and law enforcement tactics to undermine policing efforts. It is not in the public interest to disclose information that could be used to assist in the planning of criminal activity or hinder our relationship with groups of the communities we serve, due to an adverse FOIA disclosure.

### Section 31 factors in favour of disclosure

The use of police resources and tactics is a matter that the force should hold up to public scrutiny as the police are accountable for public funds and public safety; therefore there is a public interest in justification of the spending of these funds and how the public are kept safe.

### Section 31 factors in favour of non-disclosure

Disclosure would lead to a loss of confidence in the North Wales Police and UK ability to protect the safety of the community (for example, following an adverse FOIA disclosure regarding resources, tactics or local intelligence).

The risk to individuals and the community is likely to be significant if the information is used by those with the necessary criminal intent to undermine the very purpose information is held (crime prevention and detection at a national scale).

As this document is currently in draft form, it could be subject to change. Extra security measures and policing resources may need to be put into place with the disclosure of this information. This is because of the risk disclosure brings in that it could be used as intelligence by those with the necessary criminal intent to undermine policing in different parts of the UK based on the content of the full minutes.

#### Balance Test

The strongest reason favouring disclosure is increasing public knowledge of a policing conversation and North Wales Police being open and transparent.

The strongest reason favouring non-disclosure is to not undermine law enforcement tactics, methodology and resources by virtue of an adverse FOIA disclosure.

On weighing up the competing interests I have determined that the disclosure of the above information would not be in the public interest. I consider that the benefit that would result from the information being disclosed does not outweigh the considerations favouring non-disclosure.

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 03/02/2026