



Response Date:13/03/2026

2026/226 - Training info and Policies

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

...details of any previous complaints made against him together with the results of any subsequent investigations.

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 FOI requests are disclosures to the world (not just to the applicant making the request), 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

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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.

*** A copy of any materials in relation to officer training in the application of handcuffs, procedures used in checking the tightness of the handcuffs, double locking and who provides such training to NWP officers.**

*** A copy of any materials related to restraint techniques used in training officers as to use of force, including techniques for taking detainees to the floor, restraint on the floor etc.**

This information is held by the College of Policing – you may wish to redirect your enquiry to them.

[Freedom of information \(FOI\) | College of Policing](#)

Training is carried out in house.

*** Details of when the arresting officer last received such training in use of force prior to the 13th December 2025, who provided the training**

Please see the answer to the first question. Section 40 (5)(b)(i) applies.

...confirmation on how often training/refresher training should be undertaken by North Wales officers.

Every 12 months (365 days)

*** A copy of the force policy in relation to the safeguarding of detainees property**

Please see the below extract from our custody policy;

Searching and Detainee Property

- 5.4.1 Custody staff must not assume a detainee has been searched upon arrest and must always check with the escorting officer if a search has been carried out and the extent of that search. In all instances use of the metal detecting wand should be used unless there is significant rationale not to do so.
- 5.4.2 In the exceptional circumstances that a detainee is not searched in custody, the rationale for not doing so shall be explained on the custody record.
- 5.4.3 **All items will be retained in a sealed property bag with a serial number on it.** Where possible all a detainee's property should be put into the same bag. The serial number(s) will be endorsed on the property tab on RMS. The detainee should check and sign the RMS property entry.
- 5.4.4 All property must be placed on the charge desk under the CCTV to avoid later allegations. The CCTV has been specifically designed to allow property to be viewed and all charge desks have audio recordings. Similarly, returned property should be checked in the presence of the detainee in view of the CCTV above the charge desk.
- 5.4.5 When property is returned, the custody officer and detainee should check that the items listed and the property bag number are correct and all items are present. Both should sign RMS. This will ensure that the detainee has received all their items or is aware of any items that have been seized and the reasons for it.
- 5.4.6 Removing clothing from a detainee for safety reasons **is** a strip search and should be recorded as such. Removal of clothing must only be considered as a last resort and must be fully rationalised and documented in the care plan of the custody log. Removal of socks and shoes will not constitute a strip search in a custody setting.
- 5.4.7 Where the detainee searched is a juvenile this should be seen as a significant event that could have an impact on that child. It will therefore be necessary for the Custody Sergeant to complete an EOEL 7 and task CRU to share with other agencies who have a responsibility for the protection of the child.
- 5.4.8 All items must be stored in the above fashion; no items of clothing or footwear should be left in corridors outside the cells
- 5.4.9 If custody staff are made aware that the detainee has other property outside of custody such as insecure valuable items, animals, or perishable items, then the custody officer must ensure that arrangements are put in place for the on-going protection of these things (during detention and post detention) and that this is documented on the custody record.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 27/02/2026