



Response Date:13/04/2026

2026/364 - Vehicles seized

Although excess cost removed the forces obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

Please could you provide the following data for each of the last five calendar years (e.g. 2021–2025):

1. The total number of vehicles seized per year.

2. A breakdown of vehicle seizures by reason, where recorded. This could include (but is not limited to):

No insurance

No valid driving licence

Illegal modifications

Anti-social driving

Stolen vehicles

Other (please specify where possible)

2021 = 3653

S.165 (no insurance and or no licence) = 1014

S.99 (included minor RTC's, abandoned, breakdowns, DUI, burnt out, obstructions) = 878

Stolen = 136

RTC Serious / Fatal = 131

S.59 = 20

Criminal Activity = 254

Other = 1220 (includes unroadworthy, Traffic Wales involved, sensitive recoveries, police vehicles)

2022 = 3800

S.165 (no insurance and or no licence) = 964

S.99 (included minor RTC's, abandoned, breakdowns, DUI) = 2233

Stolen = 176

RTC Serious / Fatal = 103

S.59 = 13

Criminal Activity = 207

Other = 91 (includes unroadworthy, Traffic Wales involved, sensitive recoveries, police vehicles)

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

2023 = 3861

S.165 (no insurance and or no licence) = 1031

S.99 (included minor RTC's, abandoned, breakdowns, DUI) = 2329

Stolen = 186

RTC Serious / Fatal = 118

S.59 = 23

Criminal Activity = 116

Other = 58 (includes unroadworthy, Traffic Wales involved, sensitive recoveries, police vehicles)

2024 = 3868

S.165 (no insurance and or no licence) = 1093

S.99 (included minor RTC's, abandoned, breakdowns, DUI) = 2308

Stolen = 223

RTC Serious / Fatal = 109

S.59 = 30

Criminal Activity = 40

Other = 65 (includes unroadworthy, Traffic Wales involved, police vehicles)

2025 = 4602

S.165 (no insurance and or no licence) = 1528

S.99 (included minor RTC's, abandoned, breakdowns, DUI) = 2495

Stolen = 201

RTC Serious / Fatal = 163

S.59 = 47

Criminal Activity = 98

Other = 70 (includes unroadworthy, Traffic Wales involved, police vehicles)

3. A geographical breakdown of vehicle seizures by town or city (or the most granular level available).

Our information is set up and searchable for our policing purposes. To obtain the information in the format you have requested would involve manually reviewing each record on our force system. The cost of providing you with the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of retrieving the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (FOI) Fees and Appropriate Limit regulations 2004.

Therefore, in accordance with the FOI Act 2000 the information you have requested is exempt under Section 12 (1), and this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under section 17 (5) of the legislation.

4. The number of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) or other fines issued in relation to the offences leading to vehicle seizures, broken down by offence type and year, where this data is held.

Please see the answer to Question 3.

5. Where available, the number of repeat offences or repeat offenders linked to vehicle seizures.

Please see the answer to Question 3.

6. The average or total costs recovered from drivers in relation to seized vehicles, including release fees, storage fees, or other associated charges.

Please see the answer to Question 3.

However, on average for a car sized vehicle it would be between £192.00 & £556.00 (Recovery and storage charges).

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 07/04/2026