



HEDDLU
GOGLEDD CYMRU
NORTH WALES
POLICE

Response Date: 12/06/2026

2026/602 - North Wales Police Air Support Unit

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

I require information regarding the deployment and operations of the North Wales Police Air Support Unit (historically operating from the St Asaph/Rhuddlan base) during the early hours of 26 December 2008 (Boxing Day). Specifically, I am requesting the following information for the time window between 00:30 AM and 03:30 AM on 26/12/2008 over the Old Colwyn / Colwyn Bay / coastal waters area:

Mission and Deployment Logs: The official log entry, incident report, or dispatch record detailing why the Air Support Unit helicopter (typically aircraft G-NWPU) was launched or diverted to the Old Colwyn area at this time.

Crew Observations: Any recorded descriptions, log notes, or debriefing reports detailing what the flight crew (pilot and air observers) visually observed or tracked in the sky or over the sea during this specific window. Please provide crew roles or service collar numbers if names are restricted under data protection.

Sensor and Video Data: A confirmation of whether any thermal imaging (via the onboard L3 Wescam MX-15 system), infrared, or standard video footage was recorded during this flight, and whether these digital or tape archives are still retained. If retained, I request access to or copies of this footage.

Because this request is strictly narrowed to a single 3-hour window on a specific date at a specific local base, the retrieval of these archived aviation records should fall well within the appropriate cost and time limits set out under the Act.

The information you request is from 2008, 18 years ago which is pre National Police Air Service – NPAS. Records from this time would be across a number of old systems and all paper records and indeed any hard drive associated with the systems were sent to archive. At that time there was no requirement for staff to clock – on / off, thus any shift pattern or roster would either not now exist or be part of the archive material at the time.

We do not believe that we would have access logs for this event and if a hard drive existed, it would require the company to intervene and try and activate the version necessary to read and interpret it thus cost and time impact.

To even comply with Section 1 (1) (1) of the Freedom of Information Legislation (which is the duty to inform the applicant whether or not information is held by the authority) would be 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.

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

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

Therefore, in accordance with the FOI Act 2000 the information you have requested is exempt under Section 12 (2), and this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under section 17 (5) of the legislation.

I can advise;

- The aircraft would have been G-NWPS not G-NWPU
- G-NWPS was sold c2009/10 at the time G-NWOI was procured and all maintenance records went with the aircraft (flight logs) upon NWP ceasing being the owner.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 12/06/2026