



**HEDDLU
GOGLEDD CYMRU
NORTH WALES
POLICE**

Response Date: 18/06/2026

2026/630 - Attenuated Energy Projectile launchers

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

- **The number of Attenuated Energy Projectile launchers and ammunition rounds currently held in your force's armoury**
- **The number of officers in your force currently authorised to use these weapons**

Concerns have been raised in relation to disclosing the number of Attenuated Energy Projectile launchers and ammunition rounds currently held and the number of officers in your force currently authorised to use these weapons.

Therefore, a public Interest Test has been carried out to weigh up the reasons for and against disclosure; to ensure the release is in the interest of the public as a whole and not just the applicant.

Section 31 (1) Law Enforcement

Section 38 (1) Health and Safety

These exemptions is a prejudice based qualified exemption, therefore there is a requirement to articulate the harm that would be caused in confirming or not that the information is held as well as carrying out a public interest test.

Overall Harm

North Wales Police are charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. North Wales Police are part of an armed alliance with Cheshire.

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, Cheshire, the North West or the UK as intelligence against 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, due to an adverse FOIA disclosure.

Section 38 provides an exemption from disclosing information if it would endanger any individual (including the applicant, the supplier of the information or anyone else).

The exemption does not necessarily deal with what are commonly thought of as health and safety matters such as establishing the cause of an accident.

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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**

Section 38 focuses on two particular areas where disclosure of information would or would be likely to endanger:

- i. the physical or mental health of any individual, or
- ii. the safety of any individual.

Disclosure of capability and ammunition held not already in the public domain is likely to cause issues for the Force to police future incidents.

Public Interest Test – S31(1) Law Enforcement:

Considerations favouring 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.

Considerations favouring non-disclosure

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

The risks 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).

Disclosure would show the armed policing capability of North Wales and Cheshire. This could be used as intelligence by those with the necessary criminal intent to undermine policing.

Public Interest Test - Section 38(1) Health & Safety

Considerations favouring disclosure

The public can have informed discussions on the matter.

Considerations favouring non-disclosure

It would be unfair to place into the public domain information, which is likely to cause harm to individuals in our community/individuals. By disclosing the requested information into the public domain, if used by those intent on criminal activity, protecting our communities and the safety of any individual would be made more difficult.

Balancing Test

The issues of accountability and transparency are noted. However, to disclose information that would compromise law enforcement role of the Force and other Forces or put individuals at risk is not appropriate.

It is recognised that transparency is the fundamental objective of the Freedom of information Act and this leads itself to a presumption of disclosure. However, this must be balanced against the harm that would be caused to law enforcement and individuals.

In this case the decision is for 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.

- **Details of any public order events in the past 20 years in which authorisation has been given for these weapons to be deployed**

We are not aware of any events documented.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 16/06/2026