



**HEDDLU
GOGLEDD CYMRU
NORTH WALES
POLICE**

Response Date: 31/07/2026

2026/737 - Policy, procedure, guidance

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

This request relates to North Wales Police policies, procedures and organisational processes following the arrest of Detective Constable Lee Harshey Jones in 2026.

I am requesting organisational information only and not personal data relating to myself or any other individual.

Please provide:

- 1. Any policy, procedure, guidance or standard operating procedure in force during 2026 regarding the management of police officers who are arrested for serious criminal offences whilst having responsibility for live investigations.**

The Police (Conduct) Regulations 2020 and The Police (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulation 2020 are the legal frameworks Professional Standards adhere to when recording, investigating and managing complaints and misconduct within North Wales Police. This is supported by the Home Office Statutory Guidance on Professional Standards and the IOPC Statutory Guidance.

[The Police \(Conduct\) Regulations 2020](#)

[The Police \(Complaints and Misconduct\) Regulations 2020](#)

[Home Office Statutory Guidance 0502.pdf](#)

[Statutory guidance - 2020 | Independent Office for Police Conduct \(IOPC\)](#)

They don't cover specifically the approach to take to live investigations held by the officer, this will be considered as part of the wider investigation.

- 2. Any policy, procedure or guidance in force during 2026 relating to identifying, assessing and notifying victims whose investigations were managed by an officer who is subsequently arrested for criminal offences.**

None

- 3. Any policy, procedure or guidance relating to Gold Group decision-making, specifically regarding:**

- * victim safeguarding;**
- * victim communication;**
- * decisions about notifying victims before information becomes publicly available;**
- * recording decisions and rationales.**

None

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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

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4. Any policy, guidance or procedure regarding the review of investigations previously conducted by police officers who are arrested or charged with criminal offences.

None, however on a case-by-case basis a review of previously conducted investigation may be requested for officers who have been under investigation for a criminal offence or investigated for a Breach of the Standards of Professional Behaviour.

5. Any policy, guidance or procedure setting out when investigations should be reviewed independently by another police force or external organisation following concerns about an officer involved in the investigation.

[Statutory guidance - 2020 | Independent Office for Police Conduct \(IOPC\)](#)

6. Any policy or guidance regarding auditing access to police systems following the arrest of an officer, including audits of:

- * **crime reports;**
- * **victim statements;**
- * **Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) interviews;**
- * **other sensitive victim information.**

Requirements to complete audits following an arrest of a police officer will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, Lawful Business Monitoring supports this approach.

7. Any policy or procedure regarding restricting, suspending or removing an officer's access to police systems following arrest for serious criminal offences.

An officer may be suspended while under investigation under the Conduct Regulations or under Schedule 3 to the 2002 Act. In either case, the suspension will be under Regulation 11 of the Conduct Regulations. Consideration must be given to a temporary move to a new location of role as an alternative to suspension and dependant on the allegation under investigation restrictions to police systems may be included.

8. Copies of any Gold Group terms of reference, governance documents or standard operating procedures in place during 2026.

Concerns have been raised in disclosing the Gold Strategy.

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, 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. Therefore, the following exemption has been engaged:

Section 30 (1)(a) – Investigations & proceedings conducted by a public authority

Section 30 (1)(a) is a qualified and class-based exemption and thus a consideration of the public interest must be provided upon disclosure. Please see the reasoning below.

ICO guidance on the use of the Section 30 (1) exemption states:

"Section 30(1) provides an exemption from the duty to disclose information that a public authority has held at any time for certain investigations or proceedings. As long as the other requirements of the exemption are satisfied, the exemption will apply to information even if it was not originally obtained or generated for one of those purposes and it will continue to protect information even if it is no longer being used for the specified investigation or

proceeding. It is only necessary for the information to have been held at some point for those purposes”

Furthermore, the guidance on the use of Section 30 goes on to say “It is not necessary that the investigation leads to someone being charged with, or being convicted of an offence. However, the purpose of the investigation must be to establish whether there were grounds for charging someone, or if they have been charged, to gather sufficient evidence for a court to determine their guilt. Section 30(1)(a) will still protect information if a police investigation fails to establish that an offence has been committed, or concludes that there is insufficient evidence to charge anyone”.

Factors favouring disclosure

Disclosure of the information requested would lead to a better-informed general public and an awareness. This would further promote public trust in providing transparency and demonstrating openness and accountability.

Factors favouring non-disclosure

The information requested relates directly to an ongoing investigation. Therefore, disclosure of any material held for the purposes of a criminal investigation has the potential to undermine criminal proceedings.

Additionally, disclosure would suggest that North Wales Police take their responsibility to appropriately handle and manage information provided by individuals to assist with criminal investigations flippantly and dismissively. This would significantly reduce public confidence and deter individuals from reporting crimes to the Police.

Balancing test

The Police Service is tasked with enforcing the law and protecting the community we serve and there is a public interest argument in ensuring we are open and transparent with regard to policing investigations.

However, the ability of North Wales Police to conduct enquiries is crucial to the principles of prevention and detection of crime. We are unable to disclose information which could potentially form part of proceedings down the line.

Therefore, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under section 17 (1) of the legislation.

The management of the force response to the arrest of Detective Lee Harshey-Jones was overseen through a Gold Group structure. The Gold Group operated in accordance with a Gold Strategy established by the Chair at the outset of the investigation.

Whilst the full Gold Strategy is not being disclosed as it is exempt under Section 30 due to its association with an ongoing criminal investigation, the strategic priorities contained within the document can be provided. These priorities are not listed in any order of precedence:

- Investigation and Criminal Justice
- Misconduct and Accountability
- Independence and Integrity
- Victim-Centred Approach
- Communications and Media
- Community Confidence
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Workforce Confidence and Welfare
- Organisational Learning
- Governance and Command

In relation to any other governance documents or standard operating procedures, North Wales Police does not hold any documentation that prescribes the operation of a Gold Group in circumstances of this specific nature. However, the force operates in accordance with nationally

recognised policing doctrine and guidance. This includes relevant College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice (APP), which provides guidance in areas such as critical incident management, investigations, operational policing and application of the National Decision Model. Further information can be found on the College of Policing website at <https://www.college.police.uk/app>.

9. Confirmation of whether North Wales Police has a policy or guidance requiring victims to be informed before details of an officer's arrest are released publicly, where that officer was responsible for investigating their case. –

There is no local or national media guidance in relation to informing victims ahead of any publication.

10. Confirmation of whether any organisational learning, policy changes or procedural reviews have been introduced following the arrest of Detective Constable Lee Harshey Jones in 2026 in relation to:

- * **victim notification;**
- * **victim safeguarding;**
- * **management oversight;**
- * **review of investigations;**
- * **access to police systems;**
- * **handling of sensitive victim information.**

As the investigation remains live any organisational learning will be considered throughout the duration of the investigation and on conclusion. The Strategic Planning and Organisational Learning Board tracks and records any Organisational learning.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 22/07/2026