



Response Date: 14/09/2026

2026/867 - Historic CSA case

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

1. Please advise the basic process of how the NWP would go about gathering a witness statement from an adult in Australia regarding a historic CSA case, with the presumption that the Australian witness is giving a voluntary statement without coercion and the Australian authorities are cooperating fully. Please advise of any legislative, sovereignty, PACE / procedural hurdles and how they would be overcome.

The process for obtaining a statement from a witness in a foreign country is the same no matter what the investigation. For this request the process looks like this:

- a. North Wales Police contact Interpol (via established points of contact and forms) to request that Australian law enforcement obtain a statement from the witness;
- b. Australian law enforcement consider whether the statement can be obtained simply via police-to-police cooperation or whether an International Letter of Request (ILOR) is needed – if police-to-police is acceptable then the statement will be obtained and sent straight back to North Wales Police via Interpol;
- c. In the case of an ILOR being required, Interpol will inform North Wales Police who will then engage with the Crown Prosecution Service to write and send the letter to the Australian prosecuting authorities. It is more likely than not that an ILOR would be required for a statement from an Australian witness;
- d. If accepted, Australian law enforcement would be tasked to obtain the statement, which would be sent back to the UK and North Wales Police. It should be noted that obtaining an ILOR can be a lengthy and time-consuming process.

2. Please forward the current national and internal NWP guidance manual on cases such as these, including RASSO and RISDP guidance.

The documents used as guidance by North Wales Police are all national resources rather than internal, with legislation primarily drawn from the Crime (International Co-operation) Act 2003. Some are official documents from the Joint International Crime Centre, with whom we liaise closely, but I do not intend to share these outside of policing. The most useful link to share in the FOI response will be [Mutual legal assistance - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/mutual-legal-assistance)

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 03/09/2026

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Glan-y-Don, Bae Colwyn LL29 8AW
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