



Response Date:20/12/2024

2024/1123 - Crimes involving vehicle number plates

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;

Specifically, I am seeking data on incidents reported in the last five years that involved:

1. Non-compliant number plates:

- a. Plates purchased from suppliers not registered with the Register of Number Plate Suppliers (RNPS).**
- b. Plates failing to conform to British Standards (e.g., BS AU 145e).**
- c. Mis-spaced or tampered plates, including those altered to obscure identification.**
- d. Plates incorporating unauthorized fonts, colours, designs, or patterns.**

2. Criminal uses of number plates:

- a. Plates used on cloned or "ringed" vehicles.**
- b. Stolen number plates reported as part of other crimes (e.g., theft, fraud, or burglary).**
- c. Counterfeit or fake number plates detected in circulation.**

3. Vehicle-related fraud and deception:

- a. Plates used to evade Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) systems.**
- b. Plates linked to "drive-offs" (e.g., fuel theft) or other crimes involving untraceable vehicles.**
- c. Plates associated with insurance or identity fraud.**

Please find below all offences which have offences codes / descriptions relating to reg plates recorded on our Crime Recording System:

Vehicle Registration Offences recorded 2020-2024 - Manual Checks required for ANPR / Related Occurrences etc

Offence	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	Drive a vehicle when the registration mark fails to conform with regulations	35	31	31	30
Drive a vehicle with registration mark obscured indistinguishable	2	3	0	0	0
Drive vehicle no front registration plate registered after 30 09 38	15	14	10	11	1
Drive vehicle and trailer no rear registration plate registered after 30 09 38	6	14	2	3	5
Fraud, forgery etc associated with registration and licensing documents	6	2	8	3	1
Keep a vehicle when registration mark fails to conform with the regulations	0	2	0	1	0
Keep vehicle no front registration plate registered after 30 09 38	0	0	1	0	0
Keep vehicle no rear registration plate registered after 30 09 38	1	1	0	2	1
Use a motor vehicle / trailer when the rear registration mark was not lit during darkness	0	0	1	5	4
Total	65	67	53	55	26

4. Organized and environmental crimes:

- a. Number plates linked to organized vehicle crime syndicates, such as car theft or illegal exportation of cloned vehicles.**
- b. Plates involved in environmental crimes, such as fly-tipping, where unregistered vehicles were used to avoid detection.**

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.

5. Enforcement and policy data:

- a. How the constabulary monitors compliance with vehicle number plate regulations (including**

ANPR system capabilities for detecting non-compliant plates).

b. Any policies, guidelines, or operational procedures related to number plate crimes or compliance enforcement.

c. The most common penalties or resolutions (e.g., prosecutions, warnings, or other actions) for offenses involving number plates.

Please see the answer to question 4. Section 12 has been engaged in relation to this request.

However, we can confirm North Wales Police do not have any policies that relate to this.

For each category, I would appreciate:

Annual data for the past five years.

- **Summaries of statistical insights into trends, if available;**
- **Details of the most frequent offenses and any notable cases, where this does not breach privacy or confidentiality.**

Please see the answers to questions 1 – 4.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 19/12/2024