



Response Date:26/02/2025

2025/202 – PCSOs

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;

Since the inception of PCSOs. I would like to know how many PCSOs North Wales police employed each year and the cost to the public for them.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total (Headcount)</u>
2002	data unavailable
2003	data unavailable
2004	data unavailable
2005	data unavailable
2006	data unavailable
2007	146
2008	161
2009	160
2010	160
2011	163
2012	222
2013	266
2014	272
2015	248
2016	225
2017	228
2018	237
2019	216
2020	187
2021	190
2022	191
2023	195
2024	183
2025	196

NWP PCSO costs

Year	£m
2024-25	7.282
2023-24	6.987
2022-23	6.719
2021-22	6.249
2020-21	6.22
2019-20	6.252
2018-19	6.837
2017-18	6.806
2016-17	6.56
2015-16	6.777
2014-15	7.118
2013-14	7.092
2012-13	6.668
2011-12	4.633
2010-11	4.41
2009-10	4.235
2008-09	4.057
2007-08	3.935
2006-07	1.435

I would also like to know the powers they have (i believe it may be approx 30)

Please find attached a document called 'PCSO Powers'.

and how many PCSO's have used each power.

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.

Also PCSOs have an any person powers of arrest, the same as a member of the public, please let me know how many arrests PCSOs have made each year

Custody records where the arrest collar matches an employee who has a post description of PCSO in their HR records + arrest date is between the first PCSO start date and last end date:

Year	Count of Custody
2005	1
2006	1
2007	1
2008	2
2009	2
2010	2
2011	1
2017	1
2020	1
Grand Total	12

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 21/02/2025

Police Community Support Officer (referred to as “CSO’s below) shall be designated with the following powers of a constable in accordance with paragraph 38(6B) of the Police Reform Act 2002:-

Powers of a police constable

1. The power to issue a Traffic Offence Report for certain offences

A CSO has the power to issue Traffic Offence Reports under section 54 of the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988 for the following offences:

Leaving a vehicle in a dangerous position contrary to section 22 of the Road Traffic Act 1988
(a person in charge of a vehicle causes or permits the vehicle or a trailer drawn by it to remain at rest on a road in such a position or in such condition or in such circumstances as to involve a danger of injury to other persons using the road);

Failure to comply with zig zag road markings in the vicinity of a school contrary to Section 36 (1) of the Road Traffic Act 1988

(a person driving or propelling a vehicle who fails to comply with a traffic sign, being a sign of the prescribed size, colour and type, or of another character authorised by the relevant authority under the provisions in that behalf of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, which has been lawfully placed on or near a road); and

Causing an unnecessary obstruction contrary to Regulation 103 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 and section 42 of the Road Traffic Act 1988

(person in charge of a motor vehicle or trailer causing or permitting the vehicle or trailer to stand on a road so as to cause any unnecessary obstruction of the road).

2. Powers relating to motor vehicles used in manner causing alarm, distress or annoyance

A CSO has the powers of a constable under Section 59 Police Reform Act 2002:-

(1) Where a constable in uniform has reasonable grounds for believing that a motor vehicle is being used on any occasion in a manner which—

(a) contravenes section 3 or 34 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 (c. 52) (careless and inconsiderate driving and prohibition of off-road driving), and

(b) is causing, or is likely to cause, alarm, distress or annoyance to members of the public, he shall have the powers set out in subsection (3).

(2) A constable in uniform shall also have the powers set out in subsection (3) where he has reasonable grounds for believing that a motor vehicle has been used on any occasion in a manner falling within subsection (1).

(3) Those powers are—

(a) power, if the motor vehicle is moving, to order the person driving it to stop the vehicle;

(b) power to seize and remove the motor vehicle;

(c) power, for the purposes of exercising a power falling within paragraph (a) or (b), to enter any premises on which he has reasonable grounds for believing the motor vehicle to be;

(d) power to use reasonable force, if necessary, in the exercise of any power conferred by any of paragraphs (a) to (c).

- (4) A constable shall not seize a motor vehicle in the exercise of the powers conferred on him by this section unless—
- (a) he has warned the person appearing to him to be the person whose use falls within subsection (1) that he will seize it, if that use continues or is repeated; and
 - (b) it appears to him that the use has continued or been repeated after the warning.
- (5) Subsection (4) does not require a warning to be given by a constable on any occasion on which he would otherwise have the power to seize a motor vehicle under this section if—
- (a) the circumstances make it impracticable for him to give the warning;
 - (b) the constable has already on that occasion given a warning under that subsection in respect of any use of that motor vehicle or of another motor vehicle by that person or any other person;
 - (c) the constable has reasonable grounds for believing that such a warning has been given on that occasion otherwise than by him; or
 - (d) the constable has reasonable grounds for believing that the person whose use of that motor vehicle on that occasion would justify the seizure is a person to whom a warning under that subsection has been given (whether or not by that constable or in respect the same vehicle or the same or a similar use) on a previous occasion in the previous twelve months.
- (6) A person who fails to comply with an order under subsection (3)(a) is guilty of an offence and shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.
- (7) Subsection (3)(c) does not authorise entry into a private dwelling house.
- (8) The powers conferred on a constable by this section shall be exercisable only at a time when regulations under section 60 are in force.
- “driving” has the same meaning as in the Road Traffic Act 1988 (c. 52);
“motor vehicle” means any mechanically propelled vehicle, whether or not it is intended or adapted for use on roads; and
“private dwelling house” does not include any garage or other structure occupied with the dwelling house, or any land appurtenant to the dwelling house.

ADDITIONAL POWERS are designated to Police Community Support Officers (referred to as “CSO’s” below) under Schedule 3C Police Reform Act 2002 as follows:

Additional powers and duties

1. Powers to issue fixed penalty notices

- (1) A CSO has the power of an authorised officer of a litter authority to give a notice under section 88 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (fixed penalty notices in respect of litter) in relation to an individual whom the CSO has reason to believe has committed an offence under section 87 of that Act at a place within the relevant police area.
- (2) A CSO has the power of an authorised officer of a local authority to give a notice under section 43(1) of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 (penalty notices in respect of graffiti or flyposting) in relation to an individual whom the CSO has reason to believe has committed an offence that is a relevant offence for the purposes of section 43(1) at a place within the North Wales Police area.

- (3) A CSO has the power of an authorised officer of an authority to give a notice under section 237A of the Local Government Act 1972 or under section 12 of the Local Government Byelaws (Wales) Act 2012 (fixed penalty notice in relation to offences against certain byelaws) in relation to an individual whom the CSO has reason to believe has committed an offence against a listed byelaw at a place within the North Wales Police area.

A byelaw is a “listed byelaw” for the purposes of sub-paragraph (5) if, at the time the CSO gives the notice—

- (a) it is a byelaw to which section 237A of the Local Government Act 1972 or to which section 12 of the Local Government Byelaws (Wales) Act 2012 (fixed penalty notices in relation to offences against certain byelaws) applies, and
- (b) the Chief Constable of North Wales Police and the authority that made the byelaw have agreed to include it in a list of byelaws kept for the purposes of sub-paragraph (5).

Note. The list of byelaws kept for the purposes of sub-paragraph (5) may be amended from time to time by agreement between the Chief Constable of North Wales Police and the authority, by adding byelaws to it or removing byelaws from it.

Where the list of byelaws is amended, the amended list must be published by the Chief Constable of North Wales Police.

2. Powers to require names and addresses

- (1) A CSO may require a person to give his or her name and address if the CSO has reason to believe that –

- (a) The person has committed a relevant offence in the North Wales Police area, or
- (b) The person has committed a relevant licensing offence (whether or not in the North Wales Police area)

“Relevant offence” means any of the following offences-

- (a) An offence in respect of which the CSO is authorised to give a penalty notice (whether in consequence of paragraph 2 above) or in consequence of provision included in his or her designation in reliance on 38(6B)(a)
- (b) An offence under section 3 or 4 of the Vagrancy Act 1824
- (c) An offence committed in a specified park which by virtue of section 2 of the Parks Regulation (Amendment) Act 1926 is an offence against the Parks Regulation Act 1872
- (d) An offence under section 39 of the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 (dispersal powers)
- (e) An offence under a listed byelaw
- (f) An offence the commission of which appears to the CSO to have caused-
- (i) Injury, alarm or distress to any other person, or
- (ii) The loss of, or any damage to, any other person’s property.

“Relevant licensing offence” means an offence under any of the following provisions of the Licensing Act 2003 –

- (a) Section 141 (otherwise than by virtue of subsection (2)(c) or (3) of that section) (sale of alcohol to a person who is drunk – not in relation to members of clubs)
- (b) Section 142 (obtaining alcohol for a person who is drunk)
- (c) Section 146(1) (sale of alcohol to children)

- (d) Section 149(1)(a), (3)(a) or (4)(a) (purchase of alcohol by or on behalf of children/purchase or attempt to purchase alcohol for a child on licensed premises)
- (e) Section 150(1) (consumption of alcohol by children on licensed premises)
- (f) Section 150(2) (otherwise than by virtue of subsection (3)(b) of that section (allowing consumption of alcohol on licensed premises))
- (g) Section 152(1) (excluding paragraph (b)) (sending a child to obtain alcohol).

References to “a listed byelaw” if at the time the CSO requires name and address –

- (a) it is a byelaw which has been made by a relevant body with authority to make byelaws for any place within the relevant police area, and
- (b) it is included in the list of byelaws published for the purposes of this paragraph by the chief officer of police for the relevant police area.
- (6) a byelaw may be included in the list of byelaws published for the purposes of this paragraph only if the chief officer of police and the relevant body which made the byelaw agree that it should be included.

Nb. The Chief Constable for the North Wales Police area must publish the list in such a way as to bring it to the attention of members of the public in localities where the byelaws in the list apply. The list of byelaws published for the purposes of this paragraph may be amended from time to time by agreement between the Chief Constable of North Wales Police and the relevant body, by adding byelaws to it or removing byelaws from it.

Where the list of byelaws is amended, the amended list must be published by the chief officer as mentioned above.

A “relevant body” means a county council, a county borough council or a community council. In its application in relation to an offence in respect of which the CSO is authorised to give a penalty notice under section 444A of the Education Act 1996 (penalty notice in respect of failure to secure regular attendance at school of registered pupil), sub-paragraph (1)(a) of this paragraph has effect as if the words “in the relevant police area” were omitted.

“Specified park” has the same meaning as in section 162 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005.

3. Powers to search for and seize alcohol and tobacco

(1) A CSO may search a person for alcohol or a container for alcohol if-

- (a) the CSO has (in consequence of provision included in his or her designation in reliance on section 38(6B)(a)) imposed a requirement on a person to surrender alcohol or a container for alcohol under section 63(2) of the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 or under section 1 of the Confiscation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Act 1997,
- (b) the person has failed to comply with the requirement, and
- (c) the CSO or reasonably believes that the person has alcohol or a container for alcohol in his or her possession.

(2) A CSO may search a person for tobacco or cigarette papers where-

- (a) the CSO or has (in consequence of provision included in his or her designation in reliance on section 38(6B)(a)) sought to seize the tobacco or cigarette papers under section 7(3) of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 (seizure of tobacco from young persons),
- (b) the person from whom the CSO sought to seize the item has failed to surrender it, and
- (c) the CSO reasonably believes that the person has it in his or her possession.

(3) The power to search under sub-paragraph (1) or (2)—

- (a) is to do so only to the extent that is reasonably required for the purpose of discovering whatever the CSO is searching for, and
- (b) does not authorise the CSO to require a person to remove any of his or her clothing in public other than an outer coat, jacket or gloves.

(4) A person who without reasonable excuse fails to consent to being searched in the exercise of a power under this paragraph is guilty of an offence and is liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

(5) A CSO who proposes to exercise a power to search a person under sub-paragraph (1) or (2) must inform him or her that failing without reasonable excuse to consent to being searched is an offence.

(6) If the person in question fails to consent to being searched, the CSO or may require him or her to give the CSO his or her name and address.

(7) If on searching the person the CSO discovers what he or she is searching for, the CSO may seize it and dispose of it.

4. Powers to seize and detain: controlled drugs

(1) A CSO may exercise the powers conferred by sub-paragraph (2) or (3) in the North Wales Police area.

(2) If the CSO—

- (a) finds a controlled drug in a person's possession (whether or not the CSO finds it in the course of searching the person in the exercise of a power or duty conferred or imposed by his or her designation under section 38), and
 - (b) reasonably believes that it is unlawful for the person to be in possession of it,
- the CSO may seize it and retain it.

(3) If the CSO—

- (a) either—
 - (i) finds a controlled drug in a person's possession (as mentioned in sub-paragraph (2)(a)), or
 - (ii) reasonably believes that a person is in possession of a controlled drug, and
 - (b) reasonably believes that it is unlawful for the person to be in possession of it,
- the CSO may require the person to give the CSO his or her name and address.

(4) If, in exercise of the power conferred by sub-paragraph (2), the CSO seizes and retains a controlled drug, the CSO must—

- (a) if the person from whom it was seized maintains that he or she was lawfully in possession of it, tell the person where inquiries about its recovery may be made, and
- (b) comply with a constable's instructions about what to do with it.

(5) A person who fails to comply with a requirement imposed under sub-paragraph (3) is guilty of an offence and liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

"Controlled drug" has the same meaning as in the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

5. Powers to seize and detain: psychoactive substances

(1) A CSO may exercise the powers conferred by sub-paragraph (2) or (3) in the relevant police area.

(2) If the CSO—

(a) finds a psychoactive substance in a person's possession (whether or not the CSO finds it in the course of searching the person in the exercise of a power or duty conferred or imposed by his or her designation under section 38), and

(b) reasonably believes that it is unlawful for the person to be in possession of it, the CSO may seize it and retain it.

(3) If the CSO—

(a) either—

(i) finds a psychoactive substance in a person's possession (as mentioned in sub-paragraph (2)(a)), or

(ii) reasonably believes that a person is in possession of a psychoactive substance, and

(b) reasonably believes that it is unlawful for the person to be in possession of it, the CSO may require the person to give the CSO his or her name and address.

(4) If, in exercise of the power conferred by sub-paragraph (2), the CSO seizes and retains a psychoactive substance, the CSO must—

(a) if the person from whom it was seized maintains that he or she was lawfully in possession of it—

(i) tell the person where inquiries about its recovery may be made, and

(ii) explain the effect of sections 49 to 51 and 53 of the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 (retention and disposal of items), and

(b) comply with a constable's instructions about what to do with it.

(5) Any substance seized in exercise of the power conferred by sub-paragraph (2) is to be treated for the purposes of sections 49 to 53 of the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 as if it had been seized by a police or customs officer under section 36 of that Act. Section 50 of that Act applies in relation to any such substance as if the reference in subsection (1)(b) to the police or customs officer who seized it were a reference to the CSO who seized it.

(6) A person who fails to comply with a requirement imposed under sub-paragraph (3) is guilty of an offence and liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

"Police or customs officer" and "psychoactive substance" have the same meaning as in the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016.

6. Power to detain pending arrival of a constable

- (1) A CSO may require a person to wait with the CSO, for a period not exceeding 30 minutes, for the arrival of a constable where—
- (a) the CSO has required the person to give his or her name and address (whether in consequence of paragraph 3, 4(6), 5(3) or 6(3) or in consequence of provision included in his or her designation in reliance on section 38(6B)(a)), and
- (b) either—
- (i) the person has failed to comply with the requirement, or
- (ii) the CSO has reasonable grounds for suspecting that the person has given a name or address that is false or inaccurate.
- (2) Sub-paragraph (1) does not apply if the requirement to give a name and address was imposed in connection with a relevant licensing offence mentioned in paragraph 3(4)(a), (c) or (f) which the CSO believes to have been committed on licensed premises (within the meaning of the Licensing Act 2003).
- (3) A CSO may require a person to wait with the CSO, for a period not exceeding 30 minutes, for the arrival of a constable where—
- (a) the CSO has reason to believe that the person is committing an offence under section 3 or 4 of the Vagrancy Act 1824,
- (b) the CSO requires the person to stop doing whatever gives rise to that belief, and
- (c) the person fails to stop as required.
- (4) A person who has been required under sub-paragraph (1) or (3) to wait with a CSO may, if requested to do so, elect that (instead of waiting) he or she will accompany the CSO to a police station in the relevant police area.
- (5) Where the person does not elect to accompany the CSO to the police station, and the constable arrives within the period of 30 minutes, the CSO is under a duty to remain with the person and the constable until the CSO has transferred control of the person to the constable.
- (6) Where the person does elect to accompany the CSO to the police station—
- (a) the CSO is under a duty to remain at the police station until the CSO has transferred control of the person to the custody officer there,
- (b) until control is transferred, the CSO is treated for all purposes as having the person in his or her lawful custody, and
- (c) for so long as the CSO remains at the police station or in its immediate vicinity (whether before control of the person is transferred or afterwards), the CSO is under a duty to prevent the person's escape and to assist in keeping the person under control.
- (7) A person who—
- (a) makes off while subject to a requirement under sub-paragraph (1) or (3), or
- (b) makes off while accompanying a CSO to a police station in accordance with an election under sub-paragraph (4),
- is guilty of an offence and liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

7. Powers to search etc individuals detained under paragraph 7

- (1) A CSO may exercise the powers set out in sub-paragraphs (2) and (3) in relation to a person whom the CSO has required to wait for the arrival of a constable under paragraph 7(1) or (3) (whether or not that person makes an election under paragraph 7(4)).
- (2) If the CSO has reasonable grounds for believing that the person may present a danger to himself or herself or to others, the CSO may search the person.
- (3) If the CSO has reasonable grounds for believing that the person may have concealed on him or her anything which might be used to assist in escaping from lawful custody, the CSO may search the person for that thing.
- (4) The power conferred by sub-paragraph (2) or (3)—
 - (a) does not authorise a CSO to require a person to remove any of his or her clothing in public other than an outer coat, jacket or gloves;
 - (b) does authorise a search of a person's mouth.
- (5) A CSO searching a person under sub-paragraph (2) may seize and retain anything that is found, if the CSO has reasonable grounds for believing that the person searched might use it to cause physical injury to himself or herself or to any other person.
- (6) A CSO searching a person under sub-paragraph (3) may seize and retain anything that is found, other than an item subject to legal privilege, if the CSO has reasonable grounds for believing that the person might use it to assist in escaping from lawful custody.
- (7) If a CSO seizes or retains anything under sub-paragraph (5) or (6), the CSO must—
 - (a) tell the person from whom it was seized where inquiries about its recovery may be made, and
 - (b) comply with a constable's instructions about what to do with it.

8. Persons detained under paragraph 7: park trading offences

- (1) If a CSO reasonably suspects that a person required to wait for the arrival of a constable under paragraph 7(1) has committed a park trading offence, the CSO may take possession of anything of a non-perishable nature which—
 - (a) the person has in his or her possession or under his control, and
 - (b) the CSO reasonably believes to have been used in the commission of the offence.
- (2) The CSO may retain possession of the thing in question for a period not exceeding 30 minutes unless the person makes an election under paragraph 7(4), in which case the CSO may retain possession of the thing in question until he or she is able to transfer control of it to a constable.

"Park trading offence" means an offence committed in a specified park which is a park trading offence for the purposes of the Royal Parks (Trading) Act 2000.

"Specified park" has the same meaning as in section 162 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005.

9. Power to use reasonable force

The CSO has power to use reasonable force—

- (a) to prevent a person whom the CSO has required under paragraph 7(1) or (3) to wait for a constable from making off, or to keep the person under control, at any time while the person is subject to the requirement;
- (b) where such a person elects under paragraph 7(4) to accompany a CSO to a police station, to prevent the person from making off, or to keep the person under control, while the person is accompanying the CSO to the police station;
- (c) where a CSO is fulfilling a duty imposed under paragraph 7(5) or (6), to prevent the person from making off (or escaping) and to keep him or her under control;
- (d) where a CSO is exercising a power conferred by paragraph 7 above (powers of search).

10. Road traffic

A CSO has in the North Wales Police area the powers conferred on persons designated by the regulations under section 99 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (removal of abandoned vehicles).