



Response Date:01/05/2025

2025/459 - Stolen phones that have been seized

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

- 1. How many stolen or suspected stolen mobile phones are currently held by the force having been recovered by officers?**
- 2. How many stolen or suspected stolen phones have been recovered by the force in the past five years? If possible it would be helpful if this data is broken down by year.**
- 3. Of these, how many have successfully been returned to their owners?**

Our information is set up and searchable for our policing purposes. In North Wales Police, seized property staff are responsible for inputting all property seized by officers onto our records management system electronically. When adding property to the system, the seized property team utilises the category 'seized' for all property input. Unfortunately, we do not categorise items by the circumstances of their seizure as often this is not information that we have access to for us to be able to categorise each item accurately. Therefore, all mobile phones currently held by North Wales Police fall under the category of 'seized' and the answer to the above question cannot be distinguished. Furthermore, whilst it would potentially be possible for a search to be run such as how many theft occurrences have seized mobile phones linked to them, the resulting number of mobile phones would not accurately answer the above question. It would then not be possible to accurately determine how many of these phones were in fact stolen mobiles that had been recovered by officers, from suspects own mobile phones that had been seized from them in relation to the offence for example.

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.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 23/04/2025

Pencadlys yr Heddlu,
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