HEDDLU
GOGLEDD CYMRU
NORTH WALES
POLICE

Response Date:09/11/2026

2026/1197 - reports/complaints/contacts

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

In relation to the murder of Angela Shellis in Prestatyn on October 24, 2025, please could you disclose all reports/complaints/contacts made to North Wales Police by Ms Shellis?

North Wales Police can neither confirm nor deny whether we hold any information in relation to your request as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) does not apply by virtue of the following exemptions:

Section 38 Health and Safety
Section 40 Personal Information

Section 38 is prejudice-based, qualified exemptions and both evidence of harm and a public interest test must be carried out.
Section 40 is class-based, absolute exemptions so the harm has already been identified in the legislation, and there is no requirement to undertake a public interest test.

Whilst the Data Protection Act 2018 does not apply to the deceased, consideration has been given to the potential impact that disclosure may have on surviving family members, friends and others closely connected to the deceased. Accordingly, North Wales Police has considered the application of Section 38(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and undertaken a Public Interest Test.

Section 38(2)- Health and Safety
Section 38 provides an exemption where disclosure of information would, or would be likely to, endanger:

- the physical or mental health of any individual; or
- the safety of any individual.

Overall Harm
The information requested relates to a deceased individual and remains sensitive in nature. Disclosure into the public domain would be likely to cause significant distress and upset to surviving family members, friends and others closely connected to the deceased. Given the nature of the information and the circumstances involved, there is a real and identifiable risk that disclosure could adversely affect the mental health and wellbeing of those individuals.

Considerations Favouring Disclosure

- Promoting openness and transparency in relation to the actions and decision-making of North Wales Police.
- Enhancing public confidence in the Force through accountability and scrutiny.

Considerations Favouring Non-Disclosure

- Disclosure would be likely to cause significant distress to surviving family members and others connected to the deceased.
- Information released under FOIA enters the public domain without restriction and may be further disseminated, increasing the impact on those affected.
- The disclosure would provide limited wider public benefit whilst creating a risk of harm to the mental wellbeing of individuals connected to the deceased.
- Any reports/complaints/contacts would contain the personal information of the person reporting, the suspect/the offender/any witnesses etc.

Balancing Test

North Wales Police recognises that transparency and accountability are fundamental principles of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and that there is a presumption in favour of disclosure. However, these principles must be balanced against the potential harm that disclosure may cause.

In this case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure. Whilst disclosure would promote openness, it is considered that the release of the requested information would be likely to endanger the mental health and wellbeing of surviving family members and others connected to the deceased. The wider public interest served by disclosure is limited and does not outweigh the potential harm identified.

Decision

North Wales Police has concluded that the requested information is exempt from disclosure under Section 38(2) and Section 40 (5)(b)(i) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Therefore, in accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter serves as a Refusal Notice.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 06/11/2026