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NORTH WALES
POLICE

Response Date:26/10/2026

2026/1057 - Request for clarity on responsible public naturism in Wales

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

I am writing in my capacity as Executive Director of Naturism Wales following the High Court judgment in Cox v Director of Public Prosecutions [2026] EWHC 2437 (Admin).
The judgment has generated considerable discussion within the naturist community, but more importantly it has left responsible naturists asking a very simple question:
How are ordinary people supposed to know where the line is?
The High Court confirmed that there is no rule that public nudity is disorderly. It also recognised the established position that public nudity is not, of itself, a criminal offence. At the same time, the Court held that whether particular conduct amounts to disorderly behaviour under section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986 is highly dependent upon context and the circumstances of the individual case.
Naturism Wales does not advocate confrontation with members of the public, deliberately provocative behaviour, or an unrestricted right to be naked irrespective of circumstances.
Quite the opposite.
We advocate responsible and considerate naturism. We encourage people to think carefully about location, timing, likely encounters, and their behaviour towards others. We have worked constructively with North Wales Police because we believe that individual freedoms and responsibilities must sit alongside one another.
However, responsible people need sufficient clarity to make responsible decisions. A person quietly walking, swimming, sunbathing or otherwise enjoying the countryside naturist needs to have some reasonable means of understanding what distinguishes lawful naturism from behaviour that may cross the threshold into a criminal offence.
This leads us to several questions which we believe now deserve clear answers:

1. **Following *Cox v DPP*, what guidance should police officers use when responding to reports concerning peaceful, non-sexual public nudity?**
2. **Is the existing College of Policing approach to public nudity still considered appropriate following the High Court judgment, and will any revised national guidance be produced?**
3. **What practical factors should a responsible naturist consider when deciding whether a particular location, time and set of circumstances are appropriate?**
4. **How should a distinction be made between somebody being offended or uncomfortable at encountering nudity and conduct reaching the statutory threshold required by section 5 of the Public Order Act?**

5. **Does the present law provide a responsible naturist with sufficient certainty to know, before leaving home, when otherwise peaceful and non-sexual naturism might cross the threshold into criminal conduct?**
6. **Would there be value in police, policymakers, legislators, naturist organisations and other relevant bodies working together to produce clearer public guidance?**

North Wales Police do not hold any information in relation to your request.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 23/10/2026