



HEDDLU
GOGLEDD CYMRU
NORTH WALES
POLICE

Response Date: 20/07/2026

2026/647 - targeted sexualised graffiti and public-place sexual harassment

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This request concerns how your force records and responds to reports involving targeted sexualised graffiti or written material in public or publicly accessible places — in particular where the writing includes a named person's details, telephone number, sexualised allegations, invitations to contact them for sexual purposes, or wording likely to expose them to harassment, alarm, distress, unwanted sexual contact or safeguarding risk.

Purpose and public interest

This is a matter of significant public interest. Conduct of this kind appears likely to disproportionately affect women and girls and may fall within the scope of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), sexual harassment, stalking, harassment, safeguarding and repeat-victimisation frameworks. The purpose of this request is to establish whether such conduct is recorded, searchable and addressed by policy at all — and whether there is a gap in how forces identify, flag and respond to it. Whether or not the information is held is itself revealing: an absence of any recording mechanism or policy would indicate that this form of harassment is effectively invisible within force systems.

Scope, cost and priority

I am not asking you to manually review individual case files. Please answer by reference to information that is already recorded, searchable, coded, tagged, flagged or otherwise retrievable from your systems.

I am not seeking personal data about victims, suspects, witnesses, reporting persons or venue staff, and I do not seek disclosure of any information that would identify any individual case.

Where any part would exceed the appropriate cost limit under section 12, please answer the remaining parts and provide advice and assistance under section 16 as to how the request could be refined, rather than refusing the request as a whole. Priority: if the cost limit is engaged, please prioritise Parts 1 to 4, which should be answerable without manual case review, and apply section 16 advice and assistance to Parts 5 to 10.

Time period: please provide information for each calendar year from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2025, and for 1 January 2026 to the date of your search. Please provide figures in spreadsheet format where possible.

Part 1 — Recording and searchability

Please confirm whether your force holds any searchable flag, tag, marker, keyword, crime category, occurrence type or recording mechanism that would allow this type of conduct to be identified as:

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

sexualised graffiti
targeted sexual harassment
publication of personal data in a public place
phone-number graffiti
public-place sexual harassment
VAWG-related conduct
stalking or harassment-related conduct
repeat victimisation
If no such mechanism exists, please say so clearly.

There is no specific flag for sexualised graffiti/publication of personal data in public place.

Part 2 — Keyword counts

Please provide the number of recorded reports, incidents, crimes, logs or occurrences containing one or more of the following searchable terms, if held: "graffiti", "toilet graffiti", "sexual graffiti", "sexualised graffiti", "public toilet", "cubicle", "written in toilet", "phone number", "mobile number", "prostitute", "slag", "slut", "whore", "busty", "sex", "call me", "for sex", "sexual harassment"
If your systems cannot search by these terms, please explain what search terms, flags, crime categories or recording methods are available for this type of conduct.

As above – there is no searchable flag, tag, marker, keyword, crime category, occurrence type or recording mechanism that would allow this type of conduct.

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 (for one month alone) 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.

Whilst we can carry out a key word search the data is unreliable as we cannot confirm the circumstance of the occurrence without reading each and every record.

Therefore, the information does not represent the circumstances described or required for your request.

Part 3 — Policies, guidance and training

Please provide copies of any policy, guidance, training material, briefing note, crime-recording guidance or risk-assessment guidance held by your force concerning how officers or staff should respond to reports involving:
sexualised graffiti
graffiti or written material naming a person as sexually available
graffiti or written material publishing a person's phone number or other personal data
graffiti inviting strangers to contact a named person for sexual purposes
sexual harassment in public or publicly accessible places
anonymous third-party harassment through writing in toilets or public venues
repeat reports of sexualised public-place harassment
safeguarding or vulnerability concerns arising from this type of conduct
links between this conduct and stalking, harassment, domestic abuse or VAWG
If no such document is held, please say so clearly.

Part 4 — Reviews, analysis and problem profiles

Please provide copies of any analysis, review, problem profile, equality impact assessment, VAWG assessment, local briefing, crime-pattern analysis or strategic document held from 1 January 2021 onwards concerning:

sexualised graffiti

graffiti targeting named women or girls

use of public toilets or public venues to publish personal data

harassment involving phone numbers written in public places

anonymous public-place harassment of women or girls

sexual harassment in supermarkets, service stations, cinemas, hospitals, schools,

hospitality venues, transport hubs or similar publicly accessible locations

If no such document is held, please say so clearly.

No information identified.

Please see the answer to Q2.

Parts 5 to 10 — Recorded characteristics of the reports in Part 2

For Parts 5 to 10, please answer only to the extent the information is retrievable from existing coded or structured fields without manual review of individual case files. Where it is not so retrievable, please state that rather than incurring cost or refusing the request as a whole.

Part 5 — Publication of personal data

Of the reports identified, the number where the writing included, if held:

a named person's telephone number

a named person's address

a named person's social media handle

a named person's workplace or school

a photograph or image of the person

other identifying personal data

Part 6 — Victim sex / gender

victim/complainant recorded as female

recorded as male

recorded as another gender category

victim sex/gender not recorded or not retrievable

Part 7 — Age and vulnerability markers

child victim

adult victim

victim recorded as vulnerable

safeguarding concerns recorded

repeat victimisation

Part 8 — Location type

supermarket or retail premises

service station

cinema or leisure venue

hospital, clinic or healthcare premises

school, college or university

pub, restaurant, hotel or hospitality venue

public toilets

workplace

transport hub

other publicly accessible premises

private dwelling

other / unknown

Part 9 — Crime or incident classification

harassment
stalking
malicious communications
public order
criminal damage
sexual offence
hate crime
domestic abuse
violence against women and girls / VAWG
safeguarding
vulnerability
repeat victimisation
non-crime incident
no further action / no crime recorded

Part 10 – Outcome

resulted in a recorded crime
resulted in an arrest
resulted in a voluntary interview
resulted in a charge or summons
resulted in a caution, community resolution or other out-of-court disposal
closed with no suspect identified
closed with no further action
where CCTV, venue records, cleaning logs or other third-party evidence was requested or reviewed, if recorded

Please see the answer to Q2.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 20/07/2026