



**HEDDLU
GOGLEDD CYMRU
NORTH WALES
POLICE**

Response Date:04/08/2025

2025/750 - Response Officers

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

Response Officers

5) As of the most recent figures available, please specify the total Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) number of warranted police officers within your force. Additionally, please provide the effective date of these figures.

FTE	JULY 2025
Officer	1717.26

6) From the total number of warranted police officers specified in response to Question 5, please delineate the number of officers whose primary designated operational role is responding to emergency calls for service (commonly referred to as 'response officers').

Role.	Officer
JULY 2025	FTE
LPS AREA INSPECTOR	13.00
LPS AREA SUPPORT SERGEANT	10.00
LPS NPT	101.34
LPS PATROL	653.18
LPS PATROL AND OPERATIONS INSP	12.00

7) With respect to the 'response officers' identified in response to Question 6, please provide the average number of such officers typically on duty at any given time. If disaggregated data is available for specific operational timeframes (e.g., peak demand periods, night shifts), kindly provide this breakdown.

We do not hold an average.

Concerns have been raised in disclosing the actual desired levels of officers on duty per shift. Therefore, a public Interest Test has been carried out to weigh up the reasons for and against disclosure; to ensure the release is in the interest of the public as a whole and not just the applicant.

Section s31(1)(a)(b) Law Enforcement

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
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Section 31 (1)(a)(b) is a prejudice based qualified exemption, therefore there is a requirement to articulate the harm that would be caused in confirming or not that the information is held as well as carrying out a public interest test.

The Harm Test process requires North Wales Police to consider any possible harm that might arise as a result of placing the requested information into the public domain. This process considers the potential harm to:

- Individuals
- The community as a whole
- North Wales Police and the wider policing service
- Other bodies

Therefore, Section 31 (1) (a) Law Enforcement is to be considered as part of the Public Interest Test. A Public Interest Test has been carried out to weigh up the reasons for and against disclosure of the information requested, to ensure the release is in the interest of the public as a whole and not just the applicant.

Harm in respect of s31(1) Law Enforcement

Requests under the Freedom of Information Act are 'applicant blind', which means that the motives of anyone requesting information are not questioned, and in providing a response to one person, we are expressing a willingness to provide the same information to everyone. In view of this, information regarding police officer deployment is a valuable commodity to individuals and organisations wishing to commit crime, as it provides an insight into tactics and resources and a greater understanding of the policing methods and techniques employed by North Wales Police, enabling them to take steps to counter them. It may also suggest the limitations of police capabilities at certain times, in this area, which may further encourage criminal activity by exposing potential vulnerabilities. This detrimental effect is increased if the request is made to several different law enforcement bodies. In addition to the local criminal fraternity now being better informed, those intent on organised crime throughout the UK will be able to 'map' officer numbers during the night-time hours and target specific areas for crime and disorder. This could potentially leave North Wales Police vulnerable to increased criminal activity, which could stretch overnight resources and have a detrimental impact on members of the public living or travelling within North Wales Police.

Section 31 - Factors Favouring Disclosure

Disclosure of the requested information may add value to the accuracy of public debate with regards to resources allocated for the prevention and detection of crime and show that North Wales Police is open and transparent.

Section 31 - Factors Against Disclosure

North Wales Police has a duty to ensure that the prevention and detection of crime, apprehension or prosecution of offenders, and administration of justice is carried out appropriately and effectively.

Disclosure of the requested information could provide a tactical advantage to those wishing to cause harm, which could ultimately impact upon the safety of the public and officers and undermine the policing purpose.

Balance Test

For a public interest test, issues that favour disclosure need to be measured against issues that favour non-disclosure. The ability to deliver effective law enforcement is of paramount importance and North Wales Police will not divulge information if to do so would have an adverse effect on the force's ability to prevent and detect crime.

The strongest argument for disclosure is increased public awareness and scrutiny around officer numbers, allowing for accurate debate around this subject and demonstrating a willingness by the force to be open and transparent. However, this needs to be weighed against the strongest argument for non-disclosure, which, in this case, is that releasing the requested information could provide a tactical advantage to those intent on criminal behaviour and would not only impact on the force's ability to prevent and detect crime and apprehend offenders, but also its core responsibility of protecting the community it serves and its officers.

Therefore, on balance, it is considered that the public interest in providing the information is outweighed by the potential impact release would have on future law enforcement activities, and this represents a refusal notice for this request.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under section 17 (1) 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 23/07/2025