HEDDLU
GOGLEDD CYMRU
NORTH WALES
POLICE

Response Date:20/10/2026

2026/1087 - Prayer facilities

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

Please provide the following recorded information about facilities on premises owned, leased or occupied by your force that are designated, provided or routinely made available for prayer, religious observance, contemplation or quiet reflection.

This includes facilities described as prayer rooms, multi-faith rooms, faith rooms, contemplation rooms or quiet rooms, and rooms shared with other functions where prayer or religious observance is an expressly permitted use.

Please limit this request to facilities currently in operation and the policies, rules and instructions currently applicable to them.

1. Facilities and their designated purposes

Please provide any existing list or register identifying these facilities, their recorded names or descriptions, and their designated purposes. If no such list or register is held, please provide the relevant extracts from records identifying these facilities.

A room identifier may be substituted for a precise location if disclosure of the location would raise security concerns.

Our Sanctuary Rooms provide a safe and relaxing space where members of our workforce can go to clear their minds after a stressful experience, carry out religious observance or prayers, or use for short wellbeing activities such as meditation. They can also be a safe space for new mothers who are breast feeding to use for expressing.

The rooms are provided with comfortable chairs, relaxing lighting, plants, prayer mat and religious artifacts in a storage unit so that they are suitable for multi-use. The direction of Mecca will also be clearly identified. Mini fridges can be requested through Business Managers to be placed in a Sanctuary Room for the storage of breast milk.

We now have a Sanctuary Room available in each district of the Force.

Llangefni; Menai Bridge; Caernarfon; Pwllheli; Dolgellau; Llandudno; Colwyn Bay; Rhyl; St. Asaph DHQ; St. Asaph FCC; St. Asaph SSU Building; Ruthin; Deeside; Mold; Llay; Wrexham Town; Rhosllanerchrhugog.

2. Policies, rules and instructions

Please provide copies of the current policies, procedures, user guidance, booking conditions and standing instructions governing access to and use of these facilities.

Please include both force-wide documents and any rules specific to individual facilities. This includes applicable instructions held in intranet pages, staff notices, emails communicating standing rules, and displayed notices, whether or not described as a formal "policy".

In particular, please provide recorded information specifying:

- **Who is permitted to use the facilities, including any conditions relating to religion, belief or absence of religious belief.**

  Anyone (employees/visitors) with access to the site.

- **Whether use is restricted or reserved for particular religions, groups or activities, either permanently or at particular times.**

  N/a

- **Booking arrangements, priority rules and arrangements for simultaneous use by people undertaking different activities or observing different religions.**

  Nil

- **Any requirements or requests concerning footwear, including removal of shoes, and whether these apply to the whole room or particular areas.**

  As below

- **Any rules concerning clothing, head coverings, washing, food, drink, speech, music, or separation by sex.**

  As below

- **The display, provision, storage or removal of religious objects, texts, prayer mats and other equipment.**

These points identify the information sought; they do not require the force to create explanations where no recorded information is held.

The Workforce Representation Team bought equipment for the rooms including texts, prayer mats etc and there are shelves / storage in many of the Sanctuary Rooms for these items, apart from the smallest.

3. Signage and notices

Please provide the wording of current signs and notices displayed at the entrance to, or inside, these facilities which concern their designation, access or use.

Please provide existing electronic copies, artwork, scans or photographs of those signs and notices where held. If these are not held in those formats, please provide the recorded wording in another available form.

Please find attached.

4. Existing photographs

Please provide the most recent existing photographs held showing the interior and entrance signage of each facility.

I am requesting existing photographs only, not asking the force to take new photographs. People, security-sensitive details and unrelated material may be redacted where necessary.

Please find attached.

5. Approval and responsibility

Please provide current recorded information identifying:

- **The role or department responsible for managing each facility.**

People Services, Wellbeing Lead

- **The role or department responsible for approving its rules.**

People Services, Wellbeing Lead

- **Any current terms of reference, agreement or approval record establishing its designated purpose and conditions of use.**

Please see attached/below:

Guidance for Use of Sanctuary Rooms

In order to ensure that everyone gets the most from our Sanctuary Rooms and that they are keep in good condition, please observe the following guidance when using the rooms:

- Please remove work footwear to keep floors clean;
- Please don't bring food or drink into the room;
- Please be aware that the room may be used for prayers;
- Please use the sign on the door to indicate if the room is occupied;
- Please ensure you leave the room tidy and return items to the shelves.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 19/10/2026

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Health and Wellness

Guidance for use of Sanctuary Rooms

The Sanctuary Rooms provide a safe and relaxing space where members of our workforce can go to clear their minds after a stressful experience, carry out religious observance or prayers or for new mothers to use if breastfeeding / expressing milk

- Please remove work footwear to keep floors clean
- Please don't bring food or drink into the room – it isn't a place to eat lunch / meals / snacks
- Please be aware that the room may be used for prayers
- If there is a sign on the door to indicate whether the room is occupied or not, please use it and do not enter if the room is occupied
- Please ensure that you leave the room tidy and return items to the cupboards / shelves
- Please do not remove any items from the room
- If you notice any damage, anything missing or anything not working (i.e. lighting) please report to a supervisor

Any queries about the room to be directed to Jennifer Hutchinson, Wellbeing Lead







