HEDDLU
GOGLEDD CYMRU
NORTH WALES
POLICE

Response Date:20/11/2026

2026/1160 - Status of Forces Agreement

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

I am writing to you with a request under the Freedom of Information act.

The 1951 Status of Forces Agreement (as implemented by the 1952 Visiting Forces Act) makes provision for dealing with offences committed by members of the US military who are stationed in the UK by their own military prosecutors and courts rather than UK police and prosecutors.
I have attached the agreement and the act for your convenience
https://www.nato.int/en/about-us/official-texts-and-resources/official-texts/1951/06/19/agreement
https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Geo6and1Eliz2/15-16/67

My request only applies to the military personnel of the United States of America, with respect to this agreement and act.

Under this agreement and act, the government of the United States of America in certain cases will have the primary right to exercise jurisdiction to investigate and prosecute a member of the US military for an offence that is alleged to have occurred in the United Kingdom (ie asserting primacy over the UK authorities). If the US government wishes to assert jurisdiction, it will make a request to the police force in which the alleged offence occurred.

Under the act, I would like to ask how many times since January 1 2018 has the government of the United States of America asserted or requested the primary right to exercise jurisdiction (ie primacy) over your force with regard to offences that are alleged to have been committed by a member of the US military within your area.

Under the act, I would also like to ask - since January 1 2018 - how many times has your force decided to relinquish the investigation of these alleged offences to the US military.
For each of these alleged offences, I would like to ask:
a) What was the alleged offence;
b) Where did the alleged offence occur;
c) On what date did the alleged offence occur;
d) Which base or facility was the member of the US visiting force attached to or working at;
e) On what date was the primary right to exercise jurisdiction asserted by the United States of America government;
f) On what date did your force decide to relinquish the investigation to the US military.

Under the act, I would like to ask - since January 1 2018 - on how many occasions did your force decide to retain the investigation of these alleged offences and decide not to transfer responsibility for the investigation to the US military (following its request).

For each occasion, I would like to ask :
a) What was the alleged offence;
b) Where did the alleged offence occur;
c) On what date did the alleged offence occur;
d) Which base or facility was the member of the US visiting force attached to or working at;
e) On what date was the primary right to exercise jurisdiction asserted by the United States of America government;
f) On what date did your force decide to retain the investigation.

If your force is unable to provide data as far as January 1 2018, I would like to ask your force to provide as much data as possible (ie going back as far as possible).

Following publicity relating to offences relating to US military personnel in the UK, the government has set up a review of cases involving UK victims. This review includes the application and operation of jurisdictional arrangements under the Visiting Forces Act 1952 and how these are implemented across the criminal justice system. This review was referred to in parliament here
https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2026-08-28/22816
The National Police Chiefs Council is also involved in these discussions.

I understand that as part of this process, individual police forces have been asked to compile data on this subject. I therefore understand that the data that is requested in this request may already have been collected and compiled.

North Wales Police hold no information relating 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 17/11/2026