Uned Rhyddid Gwybodaeth / Freedom of Information Unit

HEDDLU
GOGLEDD CYMRU
NORTH WALES
POLICE

Response Date:24/11/2026

2026/1164 - Section 59 guidance

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

1. Please provide a copy of the current policy, standard operating procedure or other guidance that governs your officers' and PCSOs' use of section 59 seizure powers. If this sits within a wider document, such as a vehicle recovery policy, the relevant sections will be sufficient. Please also include any briefing, bulletin or interim guidance on the amendment issued to officers since 29 June 2026.

2. Please state the date on which the document(s) in question 1 were last reviewed, and whether they have been updated to reflect the removal of the warning requirement.

3. Does your force require an officer or PCSO to obtain authorisation from a supervisor before seizing a vehicle under section 59? If so, please state the rank required.

4. Does your guidance require the seizing officer or PCSO to have personally witnessed the manner of driving or riding, or can a seizure be based on third-party reports, CCTV or other footage?

5. Does your guidance require, or create a presumption of, a prosecution for the underlying section 3 or section 34 Road Traffic Act 1988 offence when a vehicle is seized under section 59?

North Wales Police do not hold any information in relation to your request. There is no 'policy, standard operating procedure or other guidance that governs officers' and PCSOs' use of section 59 seizure powers' held.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 23/11/2026