



Response Date:04/09/2026

2026/818 - Crime Recording Systems, Mandatory Data Fields and Standardised Terminology

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

Question 1 - Crime Recording System

Please identify the principal system(s) currently used by your force to record crimes and crime-related information.

For example (where applicable), this may include systems such as NICHE RMS, Athena, CONNECT, UNIFI or any other crime recording/records management system.

If your force uses multiple systems, please briefly state the purpose of each.

Niche RMS – Crime/occurrence recording System

Question 2 - Mandatory and Optional Data Fields

For your current crime recording system(s), please provide:

1. The data fields that are **mandatory**** when creating or recording a crime.**

2. The data fields that are **optional****.**

3. Where known, any fields that were previously optional but have since become mandatory (or vice versa), together with a brief explanation of when or why this change occurred.

I am not requesting access to any live systems, databases, software configuration, personal data or operational records. I am simply seeking an understanding of the data fields required within the system.

Harm has been identified in providing you with the Mandatory and Optional Data Fields, we will conduct a public interest test to decide on disclosure;

The exemptions and data being considered in the public interest test are listed below:

Section 43 (2) Commercial Interests

Section 31 (1) Law Enforcement

Sections 43 and 31 are both qualified, with 43 being a class-based exemption and 31 prejudice based which means that the public authority must demonstrate that it is satisfied that to release the information would damage someone's commercial interests or our own law enforcement. The

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Glan-y-Don, Bae Colwyn LL29 8AW
www.heddlugogleddcymru.police.uk

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www.northwales.police.uk

public authority must consider the balance of the public interest in releasing the information against the public interest in withholding it.

To provide details of the data fields within Niche RMS would be prejudicial to the commercial interests for the company. In turn, if the architecture of NicheRMS is revealed this has significant potential for the law enforcement position to be undermined.

Harm Test

Section 43

Whether a field is Mandatory or Optional is a factual response. However, the question requests disclosure of the data fields, mandatory or discretionary and specifically seeks an understanding of the data fields in the system. Provision of such information would provide a clear indication of the NicheRMS schema which is a fundamental element of Niche Technology proprietary information.

Section 31

With information about the architecture, it becomes easier for any hacker to gain access to the system. Which would be detrimental to our day-to-day operations.

Public Interest Test

Factors Favouring Disclosure section 43 and section 31

There is a strong public interest in public authorities being open and transparent and disclosing data relating to the systems we use and the fields within assists with this.

Factors Favouring Non - Disclosure section 43

Any response to this question would provide visibility (partial or whole) of NicheRMS schema into the public domain. Clearly, whether a field is Mandatory or Optional is a factual response. However, the question requests disclosure of the data fields, mandatory or discretionary and specifically seeks an understanding of the data fields in the system. Provision of such information would provide a clear indication of the NicheRMS schema which is a fundamental element of Niche Technology proprietary information. The NicheRMS schema is never shared with Third Parties. Disclosure of a list of mandatory or optional fields would be seriously prejudicial to their commercial interests

Niche Technology UK works in a limited market of suppliers. Details of the product, even at a high level provides information into the marketplace which could be used by competitors. Such information is not publicly disseminated or available to competitors, and Niche goes to great effort to prevent such disclosure whether in demonstrations or in public documentation. Direct and impactful competitive harm flows to Niche when its proprietary and confidential information is compromised through public disclosure to competitors. Niche seeks to retain the competitive advantages that this proprietary and confidential information affords it.

Factors Favouring Non - Disclosure section 31

There is a significant potential for the law enforcement position to be undermined if the architecture of NicheRMS is revealed. With information about the architecture, it becomes easier for any hacker to gain access to the system, which would have a significant impact on our day-to-day activities and operations.

Balancing Test

There are factors which in general terms favour release of this information, however, the factors favouring non-disclosure are more specifically relevant.

Releasing information which can be used by competitors and have a detrimental effect on a company would not be in the spirit of the Act. We cannot disclose information which would put companies at risk or create security issues for them or us.

My decision, therefore, is not to release this information.

Therefore, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under section 17 (1) of the legislation.

Question 3 - Standardised Terminology

Please advise whether your force has any formal guidance, policy, controlled vocabulary, business rules or mandatory terminology governing how certain categories are recorded within your crime recording systems.

Examples include (but are not limited to):

- * Asylum seeker**
- * Refugee**
- * Failed asylum seeker**
- * Illegal entrant**
- * Irregular migrant**
- * Foreign national offender**
- * Immigration status**
- * Nationality**
- * Country of birth**

If standard terminology exists, please provide copies of the relevant guidance or explain what terminology officers or staff are required (or instructed) to use.

If no such guidance exists, please confirm this.

All terminology used on Niche is created on the back of guidance following Home Office and NPCC guidance. It will be standard, we are awaiting updates following the National Protected Characteristics Coding Scheme from NPCC, Minerva attend these meetings and build any changes required in Niche.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 02/09/2026