

Response Date: 02/04/2012

2012/140 - Miscellaneous - Items Seized

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

Please provide any inventories kept of items confiscated by police during 2011. Please state which items are stored and which were disposed of by police.

This is to include all items seized or confiscated by North Wales Police, with the exemption of motor vehicles, however, if motor vehicle records are kept within the same data set, and it would be easier for you to include this data, then that would be acceptable.

I do not require details of every single incident where a seizure was made, just an overview of total amounts seized.

For example, I do not need the date and time of each time cannabis was confiscated by police, just the total amounts that are stored, and disposed of, by North Wales Police.

I would be happy to receive the data in whatever manner you have it stored, as to minimise the cost to you of this request.

Our information is set up and searchable for our policing purposes. To retrieve an 'inventory' and breakdown of all items per category of items confiscated and disposed by North Wales Police for 2011 would involve manually reviewing each record on our force system. The cost of providing you with the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of retrieving the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) regulations 2004.

Therefore, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under section 17 (5) of the legislation.

Although excess cost removed the forces obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

The seized and retained items of property by North Wales Police totalled 48,054 during the time period requested.

The disposed items of property by North Wales Police totalled 36,211 during the time period requested.

Please note: Disposal includes 'Returning to Owner', 'Destruction' or 'Sale by Auction' etc.

North Wales Police destroyed (incinerated) 2,200 kgs (161 bags) of Class A, B & C Drugs and drug paraphernalia, consisting mainly of Class B - cannabis plant material and drug paraphernalia i.e. pipes etc.

North Wales police also destroyed 650 (Section 1, 2 and 5) firearms, consisting mainly of shotguns, rifles, air guns and pistols as well as related quantities of ammunition (including. replica firearms etc).

The systems used by Police forces in the United Kingdom for recording such figures are not generic. It should be noted that, for this reason, this force's response to your questions should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you may receive.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 15/03/2012