

GWENT POLICE **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**



1.0 Aims of Policy

This policy aims to provide the organisation with a defined and guided approach in respect to Freedom of Information. To work within the legislative framework and operating guidelines relating to Freedom of Information, and meet the needs of our community, whilst managing the potential risks to operational policing. We will aim to treat people fairly and ensure that the public can contact us. We will get back in touch and provide a detailed response as soon as possible.

2.0 The Legal Basis

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 gives a general right of access to all types of recorded information held by public authorities. The Act sets out exemptions from that right and places a number of obligations on public authorities.

3.0 Human Rights Certificate of Compliance

The following articles of the Human Rights Act 1998 may be engaged

Article 2, Article 3, Article 6, Article 8, Article 9, Article 10, Article 11
Article 14

Consideration must be given in relation to the potential to discriminate against the parties involved.

Enquiries may be intrusive and there is always the potential to discriminate but this policy will be implemented in a proportionate manner with the intention of ensuring that individuals rights are not unlawfully infringed:

" In the application of this policy the Force will not discriminate against any persons regardless of sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with national minority, property, birth or other status as defined under article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights ".

PRINTED VERSIONS SHOULD NOT BE RELIED UPON. THE MOST UP TO DATE VERSION CAN BE FOUND ON THE INTRANET POLICIES SITE.

4.0 Compliance with The Welsh Language Scheme

This policy will comply with the organisations Welsh language Scheme in terms of dealing with the Welsh speaking public, impact upon the public image of the organisation and the implementation of the Welsh Language Scheme, Action Plan.

5.0 Risk Assessment and health and safety Considerations

The Gwent Police Service Dynamic Assessment should be applied as necessary. A training package in the use of risk assessment will be provided to all police personnel if requested or required.

6.0 Identification Section

Policy Title: Freedom of Information/Environmental Information Regulations

Reference: 133/11 a issue 1

ACPO LEAD: Deputy Chief Constable

Service Area Owner: Head of Corporate Communications

Department Responsible: Corporate Communications Department

Links to other Policies/Procedure: Data Protection, Information Security, and all other policies and procedures located on the Force Intranet and Internet sites.

Policy Implementation Date: Approved 15th Nov 2010

Policy Review Date: Two years from implementation