



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 2025/28739

Dear requester,

Thank you for your recent request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at, **Section 1(1) (a)**, is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held. The second duty at, **Section 1 (1) (b)**, is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held.

The information that you are seeking is in relation to the following:

REQUEST

I submit this request for specific information regarding the stop and search data in the Gwent Police area of responsibility. The information being sought relates to the datasets gathered by various public safety bodies in your area. This information is sought under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 2000). We are requesting the following data for the year 2024:

1. How many stop and search encounters took place in the Gwent Police area?
2. How many police officers were present at every encounter?
3. In addition to data for question 2, please provide data sorted by grounds, object and purpose of the search, legal power used, police outcome, action taken/sanction (if applicable), offence (if applicable), as well as the gender, age and ethnicity of the person stop and searched.

RESPONSE

1. How many stop and search encounters took place in the Gwent Police area?

There was a total of 4,156 stops in 2024, this includes both person and vehicle stops.

2. How many police officers were present at every encounter?

We are unable to provide the number of officers present at every encounter as there is no way to identify this data without a manual trawl through each individual record



and has therefore been exempt on time (4,156 records x 10 minutes per record / 60 = over 692+ hours). Please find Section 12 applied below.

Section 12 – Excess Cost

The exemption applicable to the information you have requested for this question can be found at Section 12(1) of the Act and this refusal notice is issued under Section 17.

Section 12(1) “does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.”

In the case of a police force, the appropriate limit is set at £450, which is calculated at £25 per hour (i.e. 18 hours). Gwent Police would have to conduct a manual search to find and extract the information for this question. This would take more than 18 hours of staff time therefore we are unable to answer this question and the exemption is engaged.

We appreciate that you may be disappointed on this occasion that we are unable to provide the requested information. However, under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we have a duty to assist you in relation to refining your request, where we may be able to answer some of your questions.

3. In addition to data for question 2, please provide data sorted by grounds, object and purpose of the search, legal power used, police outcome, action taken/sanction (if applicable), offence (if applicable), as well as the gender, age and ethnicity of the person stop and searched.

The following tables are based on person and vehicle stops recorded in 2024.

The below table shows the object / reason of search

Object / Reason of search	
PUBLIC ORDER	1
FIREWORKS	16
FIREARM	50
EVIDENCE OF OFFENCES UNDER THE ACT	55
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	73
OTHER	102
GOING EQUIPPED	103
ARTICLES FOR USE IN THEFT	159
NOT STATED	221
BLADED ARTICLE	276
OFFENSIVE WEAPONS	415
STOLEN PROPERTY	508
DRUGS - OTHER CONTROLLED DRUGS	2177

The below table shows the legal power used.



**HEDDLU
GWENT
POLICE**



Legal Power	
S6(3) PACE 1984	2
S47 Firearms 1968	51
Not Stated	224
S1 PACE 1984	1634
S23 Drugs 1971	2245

The below table shows the recorded outcomes. Please note that outcomes are completely dependent on what the officer has inputted into the system; it is a manual process. If they have not manually updated this, then the information will not be up to date.

Recorded Outcome	
ITEMS SEIZED	2
PENALTY NOTICE OF DISORDER	4
CAUTION	5
CASH RECOVERABLE PROPERTY	7
SUMMONSED	19
DRUGS WARNING	21
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST PERSON	21
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST VEHICLE	23
POLICE DISCRETIONARY RESOLUTION	73
PROPERTY SEIZED	95
VOLUNTARY ATTENDANCE	114
COMMUNITY RESOLUTION	255
ARRESTED	357
BLANK	371
NFA	2789

The following tables are based on person stops only.

The below table shows the recorded gender of the individual.

Gender	
Unknown	7
Not stated	235
Female	551
Male	2863

The below table shows the ages broken down into age group.

Age Group	
-----------	--



**HEDDLU
GWENT
POLICE**



Under 10 Years	4
10 - 17 Years	943
18 - 25 Years	852
26 - 35 Years	642
36 - 45 Years	500
46 - 55 Years	257
56 - 65 Years	65
Over 65 Years	15
Not Stated	378

The final table shows the recorded self-defined ethnicity group.

SDE Group	
OTHER	31
MIXED	55
ASIAN	80
BLACK	91
UNSTATED	247
UNKNOWN	947
WHITE	2205

Please note, every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.

Freedom of Information Act is a public disclosure regime, not a private regime. Any information disclosed under the Act is thereafter deemed to be in the public domain, and therefore freely available to the public and will be published on the Gwent Police website.

If, upon receiving a response to a freedom of information request, you are unhappy with the outcome, you may request an internal review. **This should be made within 40 working days of the initial response.**

Please direct any internal review requests to FOI@gwent.police.uk

You have the right to request an appeal from the Information Commissioners Office about your Freedom of Information request, if you are dissatisfied with your internal review response.

ICO Contact Details:

The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF



**HEDDLU
GWENT
POLICE**



Tel: 0303 123 1113

Web: www.ico.org.uk

Thank you for your interest in Gwent Police.