Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throseddu
Dyfed-Powys
Police and Crime Commissioner

FOI Ref: OPCC 15 26/27

Request: Dated 31st October 2026

Request:

"Dear Freedom of Information Officer,

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Recorded Information

I am writing to request information held by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for Dyfed-Powys concerning behavioural-science research, psychological interventions, experiments, trials and programmes involving serving police officers or staff.

This request follows a response from Dyfed-Powys Police dated 30 October 2026, reference 960/2026, in which the force confirmed that it did not hold information falling within my original request and specifically suggested that your office might hold relevant information.

I am conducting a wider investigation into the extent to which behavioural-science research and interventions have been undertaken within policing across England and Wales.

Period covered: 1 January 2023 to 30 October 2026.

1. Research and behavioural interventions

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Please provide a list of any research projects, experiments, randomised controlled trials, pilot programmes or behavioural interventions that your office commissioned, funded, coordinated, supported or formally evaluated during the specified period, where the purpose included studying, influencing or changing the behaviour, attitudes, perceptions, decision-making or interactions with members of the public of Dyfed-Powys Police officers or staff.

This includes, where applicable, projects concerning:

- Behavioural science, psychology or behavioural insights.

- Behavioural economics or nudge techniques.

- Unconscious or implicit bias.

- Equality, diversity and inclusion where changing officer attitudes or behaviour was an objective.

- Procedural justice and public confidence.

- Officer decision-making, communication or use of discretion.

- Stop and search, use of force or public-order policing.

- Hate crime or non-crime hate incidents.

- Community engagement and police-public interactions.

- Organisational culture, leadership or staff behaviour.

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2. Information requested for each identified project

For each project falling within Question 1, please provide the following information, insofar as it is already recorded:

a. Project or programme name.

b. Dates or period of operation.

c. Organisation responsible for commissioning or initiating the project.

d. External organisations involved, including universities, academics, consultants, charities or private companies.

e. A brief description of the project's purpose.

f. Whether the OPCC holds records indicating that participating officers or staff were informed that they were taking part in research, a trial or behavioural intervention.

g. The title or link to any resulting evaluation, findings or published report.

3. Nationally coordinated research

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Please identify any relevant projects during the specified period in which your office participated, or which it commissioned, funded or supported in conjunction with:

a. The Home Office.

b. The College of Policing.

c. The National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC).

d. Universities, academic institutions or other external research organisations.

I am interested only in projects falling within the behavioural or psychological scope described above.

4. Existing research records

If your office maintains an existing register, schedule or list of research projects, trials or evaluations that it has commissioned, funded or supported, please provide the relevant entries relating to Dyfed-Powys Police personnel and the subject matter of this request.

I am not asking for the creation of a new register or for unrelated projects to be individually assessed where doing so would exceed the applicable cost limit.

5. Scope and proportionality

This is a response under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and disclosed in November 2026

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For the avoidance of doubt:

- I am not requesting personal information about individual officers or staff.

- I am not requesting confidential personnel records.

- I am not requesting underlying research datasets or identifiable participant information.

- I am not asking your office to conduct new research or create information it does not already hold.

- If no relevant recorded information is held, please simply confirm that position.

If any part of this request would exceed the statutory cost limit, I would welcome advice and assistance under section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to identify a proportionate refinement.

6. Purpose of the request

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My purpose is to establish, through recorded evidence, whether relevant behavioural-science research, psychological interventions or trials have been commissioned, supported or evaluated through the OPCC.

In particular, I am interested in establishing the nature of any such programmes, the organisations involved, whether participating officers and staff were informed of the nature of the activity, and whether any evaluations were undertaken.

I am not suggesting that any such research was conducted without participants' knowledge. I am seeking documentary information to establish what, if anything, occurred."

Response:

I can confirm that the information you request is partially held by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC).

List of relevant research projects

1. **Understanding the attitudes of police officers to children involved in County Lines drug dealing**

a. *Project name*- Understanding the attitudes of police officers to children involved in County Lines drug dealing.
b. *Dates or period of operation* - Ongoing from February 2026.
c. *Organisation responsible for commissioning or initiating the project* - Aberystwyth University, with grant funding from Dyfed-Powys OPCC.

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d. *External organisations involved, including universities, academics, consultants, charities or private companies.* - Aberystwyth University.
e. *A brief description of the project's purpose*.- Exploration of officer attitudes and opinions towards children involved in county lines drug dealing, as attitudes influence outcomes due to the level of discretion involved. The research is intended to identify training needs to ensure all officers have the same understanding of how children are used by adult Organised Crime Groups and support the treatment of children as victims.
f. *Whether the OPCC holds records indicating that participating officers or staff were informed that they were taking part in research, a trial or behavioural intervention*.- Yes.
g. *The title or link to any resulting evaluation, findings or published report.* – Not available as the evaluation is currently ongoing.

2. Through their eyes': an analysis of Dyfed-Powys Police Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence training utilising a virtual reality prototype

a. *Project or programme name.* - 'Through their eyes': an analysis of Dyfed-Powys Police Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence training utilising a virtual reality prototype.
b. *Dates or period of operation.* - September 2024–June 2026.
c. *Organisation responsible for commissioning or initiating the project*. - Swansea University with grant funding from Dyfed-Powys OPCC.

d. *External organisations involved, including universities, academics, consultants, charities or private companies*. - Dyfed-Powys Police, Aberystwyth University, third sector VAWDASV organisations.

e. *A brief description of the project's purpose* - Realist evaluation of police training on Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV), with a particular focus on the evaluation of an immersive virtual reality 'Through Their Eyes' (TTE) training tool. TTE is a co-produced prototype, aimed at improving the response to gendered harms.

f. *Whether the OPCC holds records indicating that participating officers or staff were informed that they were taking part in research, a trial or behavioural intervention.* - No.

g. *The title or link to any resulting evaluation, findings or published report*. - Not yet available.

3. MSc thesis: Supporting police officers through domestic abuse cases.

a. *Project or programme name*. - MSc thesis: Supporting police officers through domestic abuse cases.

b. *Dates or period of operation* - August–September 2024.

c. *Organisation responsible for commissioning or initiating the project*. - Aberystwyth University.

d. *External organisations involved, including universities, academics, consultants, charities or private companies*. - N/A

e. *A brief description of the project's purpose*. - Examining why police officers might 'drop out' of domestic abuse cases at various stages (initial response, investigation, legal proceedings, and support and follow-up), and how behaviour change approaches might prevent this.

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f. *Whether the OPCC holds records indicating that participating officers or staff were informed that they were taking part in research, a trial or behavioural intervention.* - Yes.

g. *The title or link to any resulting evaluation, findings or published report.* - Not yet publicly available.

3. Nationally coordinated research

a. *The Home Office* – None.
b. *The College Of Policing* - None
c. *The National Police Chief's Council* - None
d. *Universities, academic institutions or other external research organisations.* - See response provided above, under request point 2.

4. Existing research records

No current register exists.

Next steps:

If you are dissatisfied with our response to your request, you have a right to an internal review conducted by someone who was not involved in the handling of your request. You can request a review by contacting our office through the following:

- Email: opcc@dyfed-powys.police.uk
- Phone: 01267 226440
- Online: Dyfed-Powys Police & Crime Commissioner

- Or through the post: Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Commissioner, OPCC, PO Box 99, Llangunnor, Carmarthen Carmarthenshire, SA31 2PF

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request following an internal review you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office who can be contacted through the following methods:

- Online: Make a complaint | ICO
- Phone: 0303 123 1113

Live chat service: Advice services for members of the public | ICO