



**Cheshire
Constabulary**

**Outcome of Accelerated Misconduct Hearing and Right to Appeal
Regulation 63 Police (Conduct) Regulations 2020**

Officer's Name: William Matthews

Collar Number: 30334

Rank: Police Constable

At an Accelerated Misconduct Hearing held on **10th August 2026**, the following allegation contrary to the Standards of Professional Behaviour was considered:

Allegation Three

It is alleged between 1st May 2025 and 14th November 2025, you have sent and received messages on your personal mobile phone and undertaken online activity which indicated familiarity with and association to controlled drug use and recreational use of Nitrous Oxide gas whilst you have been engaged as a serving Police Officer with Cheshire Police. If the public were sighted on the content of the messages individually or collectively, it would seriously undermine trust and confidence in policing.

It is alleged that you have breached the Standards of Professional Behaviour in respect of Honesty & Integrity (Integrity only) and Discreditable Conduct.

**Contrary to Paragraph 1 & 9 of Schedule 2 to the Police (Conduct)
Regulations 2020**

Outcome:

I have considered the potential outcomes available to me under Regulation 62. I consider that dismissal without notice is the most appropriate sanction in this case had (former) Police Constable William Matthews not previously resigned. As a result (former) Police Constable William Matthews shall be placed on the Barred List, that will prevent his re-entry into the profession.

Determination:

I am Chief Constable Mark Roberts, and I act as the decision maker for this Hearing. My first function is to review the facts of the case and determine whether or not (former) Police Constable William Matthews' conduct amounts to Gross Misconduct as defined in Regulation 2.

I have read all the information presented to me in the bundle as well as Former Constable Matthews' email of resignation dated 6th July 2026. I note that he had failed to serve a Regulation 54 Response, but I refer to his written statement dated 6th May 2026 in which he provides a questionable, and somewhat unbelievable, explanation as to the messages located on his personal mobile phone.

Former Constable Matthews' conduct is undoubtedly Gross Misconduct. He received and sent messages between 1st May and 14th November 2025 that indicated familiarity with and association to controlled drug use and recreational use of Nitrous Oxide gas. During this period Former Constable Matthews was a serving police officer working within, and it a significant fact, the Firearms Department at Cheshire Constabulary. I have no doubt that if the messages in question were seen by members of the public either individually or collectively it would seriously undermine trust and confidence in policing. He has shown no remorse for his actions, nor has he provided a credible explanation. This conduct will not be tolerated within Cheshire Constabulary.

The only appropriate disciplinary outcome in this case is Dismissal without Notice, had the former Officer not previously resigned. A lesser sanction than dismissal would not serve to uphold the high standards and deter such conduct in the future. Of course, he shall now be placed on the Barred List, that serves to prevent his re-entry into the profession.



Chief Constable:

Date:

14/08/2026

Right of Appeal

You have a right of appeal to a Police Appeals Tribunal against the finding and / or disciplinary outcome imposed at the hearing. A Police Appeals Tribunal is not a re hearing of the original matter; rather its role is to consider an appeal based on specific grounds. Those grounds are:

- That the finding or disciplinary action imposed was unreasonable; or
- That there is evidence that could not reasonably have been considered at the misconduct hearing which could have materially affected the finding or decision; or
- That there was a breach of the procedures set out in the Police (Conduct) Regulations 2020, or other unfairness which could have materially affected the finding or decision on disciplinary action.

Should you wish to appeal he will need to give notice of his appeal in writing to the local policing body. The notice of appeal must be given within 10 working days, beginning with the first working day after receipt of this notice.

Any request for an appeal must be forwarded to:

Mr Dan Price
Police and Crime Commissioner
Clemonds Hey
Oakmere Road
Winsford
Cheshire
CW7 2UA

If you fail to submit a notice of appeal within the 10 working days period, he may, within a reasonable time after the end of that period, submit a notice of appeal which shall be accompanied by the reasons why it was not submitted within that period, and the reasons for his view that it was served within a reasonable time after that period.