



Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 000570-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies on 8 February 2019 which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"What is your forces' policy on using spit guards or hoods. If you do use them - what was the first date of their implementation?"*
2. *How many times have you recorded spit guards or hoods being used?*

Please divide the data by the individual's age, gender and ethnicity. If possible, can you also include in how many cases the individual had either known, or suspected, mental health problems?

3. *If this is possible, please include the full list of complaints made against the police involving the use of spit hoods (including details)."*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 15 February 2019

Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies have considered your request for information and the response is below.

1. Suffolk Constabulary introduced spit guards during 2009, they were briefly taken out of circulation during 2012 and were reintroduced in 2013. Please be aware that the guards were removed for a short period of time during 2015 and this is reflected in the lower figures during that year.

Norfolk Constabulary introduced spit guards into Custody in 2014 and to patrol officers in 2015.

The guidance issued to officers is provided within the attached PDF document.

2. The total number of occasions a spit hood was used is provided within the attached documents for Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies. Please note that Suffolk data is only

available from October 2016 onwards and the 2016 data does not include mental health markers.

3. For Norfolk Constabulary, there has been one complaint regarding the use of a spit guard recorded. The complaint was not upheld.

For Suffolk Constabulary, a total of three public complaints have been recorded, which have mentioned the use of a 'spit hood' as part of their complaint. None of the complaints were upheld

Should you have any further queries concerning this request, please contact Clair Pack, FOI Decision Maker, quoting the reference number shown above.

A full copy of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) can be viewed on the 'Office of Public Sector Information' web-site;

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/>

Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies are not responsible for the content, or the reliability, of the website referenced. The Constabulary cannot guarantee that this link will work all of the time, and we have no control over the availability of the linked pages.

Your Right to Request a Review of Decisions Made Under the Terms of the
Freedom of Information Act (2000).

If you are unhappy with how your request has been handled, or if you think the decision is incorrect, you have the right to ask the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary to review their decision.

Ask Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies to look at the decision again.

If you are dissatisfied with the decision made by Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies under the Freedom of Information Act (2000), regarding access to information, you must notify the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary that you are requesting a review within 20 days of the date of its response to your Freedom of Information request. Requests for a review should be made in writing and addressed to:

*Freedom of Information Decision Maker
Information Management Department
Suffolk Constabulary
Police Headquarters
Martlesham Heath
Ipswich
Suffolk
IP5 3QS
OR
Email: information@suffolk.pnn.police.uk*

In all possible circumstances Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary will aim to respond to your request for us to look at our decision again within 40 working days of receipt of your request for an internal review.

The Information Commissioner.

After lodging a request for a review with Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary, if you are still dissatisfied with the decision, you can apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

For information on how to make application to the Information Commissioner please visit their website at www.ico.org.uk or contact them at the address shown below:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545 700