

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 000859-20

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 27 February 2020 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *“Hate crime - Information regarding the way these reports are processed, recorded, evaluated and actioned by Suffolk Constabulary. Please could you provide this information generally.*
2. *It would also be greatly appreciated if you could also detail the process by which non-crime hate incidents are handled (including the action taken) and recorded and how such incidents relate to hate crimes.”*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 19 March 2020

Suffolk Constabulary has considered your request for information and the response is below.

A hate crime is defined as follows: “Hate is when an offender is hostile towards an individual’s or group’s identity because of prejudice against their protected characteristics: • Race, ethnicity or nationality • Religion or belief (or lack of) • Disability (this may include physical, sensory, learning disability, or mental health) • Sexual orientation • Transgender identity”

Hate Incidents and Hate Crimes are acts of violence or hostility directed at victims because of who they are or who someone thinks they are. A Hate Incident is when the victim or anyone else think that something has taken place that was motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person or group’s protected characteristics. When Hate Incidents become criminal offences they are known as Hate Crimes. Any criminal offence can be a Hate Crime if it was carried out because of hostility or prejudice against a person or group’s protected characteristics.

A hate incident is not a crime; However, it is recorded in line with recommendations from the McPherson report.

The Constabulary records and investigate hate crime, and give high priority to the investigation of these incidents. We recognise that, although some incidents may seem minor to others, they are often much more serious when part of a pattern of behaviour directed at members of a minority group. Hate crimes are initially recorded according to the victim’s perspective on the motivating factor, without any officer interpretation.



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Suffolk police follow the College of Policing Hate Crime Operational guidance in terms of hate incident recording. <https://www.college.police.uk/What-we-do/Support/Equality/Documents/Hate-Crime-Operational-Guidance.pdf> (p60-63)

A Judicial Review recently took place regarding hate incident recording and the document linked to below explains the process regarding hate incidents and the reason that they are recorded. <https://www.college.police.uk/News/College-news/Pages/Hate-crime-judicial-review-statement-February-2020.aspx>

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/>

Suffolk Constabulary is 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.



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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 Suffolk Constabulary to review their decision.

Ask Suffolk Constabulary to look at the decision again.

If you are dissatisfied with the decision made by Suffolk Constabulary under the Freedom of Information Act (2000), regarding access to information, you must notify Suffolk Constabulary that you are requesting a review within 40 working 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 Suffolk Constabulary will aim to respond to your request for us to look at our decision again within 20 working days of receipt of your request for an internal review.

The Information Commissioner.

After lodging a request for a review with 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