



Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 000912-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies on the 9th March 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

"I would like to request the following information;

- 1. The location of all buildings currently owned or occupied by your organisation.*
- 2. The tenure of the building i.e. freehold or leasehold.*
- 3. What departments are based at each location i.e. Headquarters, Neighbourhood Policing, Investigations."*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 9th March 2018.

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

The attached spreadsheets provide the Norfolk and Suffolk current estate register, which includes the name and address of the building, description of use and if the property is Freehold/Leasehold.

We are unable to provide information on which departments are based at each location, and details of any covert premises due to exemptions within the Act. In addition, some buildings have been marked "EXEMPT" as these are not fit for disclosure.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires that Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) are to provide you the applicant with a notice ban which:

- States that fact
- Specifies the exemption(s) in question and
- States (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption(s) applies.

The information is exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption(s);

Section 31(1)(a) – Law Enforcement

Section 31 is a qualified, prejudice-based exemption and therefore I am obliged to provide evidence of harm and a public interest test.

Evidence of Harm

Where a disclosure is made that will provide details of the specific departments based at each buildings, or details of buildings that may or may not be used for covert activities, there is the potential to cause disruption to law enforcement and thus potentially for further crimes to be committed.

Disclosure of information would reveal the tactical capability of Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies, and would undermine the law enforcement capabilities of the Constabularies.

Section 31 – Factors favouring disclosure

Knowledge of the constabularies will ensure transparency is maintained and will ensure informed public debate, retaining an open and honest approach.

Information relating to operational bases and locations may have a positive factor by informing the public they are being protected, the public have a right to know of where stations and officers are stationed.

Section 31 – Factors favouring non-disclosure

Disclosure of information that can affect current and future law enforcement capabilities of the Constabularies will always favour non-disclosure. On this occasion, providing the location of the specific departments within Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies, and /or location of any covert premises could have a detrimental effect on law enforcement. Disclosure would highlight to offenders tactical information, and assist in their understanding of any vulnerabilities and tactical options of the Constabularies.

By giving criminals advanced knowledge of the Constabularies, our capabilities, covert information and tactical policing options, this would compromise our effectiveness to police and the prevention/detection of crime would be hindered.

Balancing Test

Public awareness and debate is a strong factor in disclosing this information, as it would promote vigilance within the community, encouraging effective participation to assist law enforcement within the area where suspects of crime may re-offend.

Information in regards to how funds are being spent will give assurance that the Police Service are doing all they can to ensure public safety is maintained.

Whilst there are benefits to the information being disclosed, disclosure of this information in full will more than likely have the opposite affect by allowing criminals to have expansive knowledge of the constabularies, where departments are based and knowledge of any undercover policing operational capabilities.

The Police Service has a duty to ensure public safety, and we would not wish to jeopardise any future crime prevention and law enforcement, disclosures under the FOI Act should always ensure that law enforcement and the safety of the public is not compromised.

The decision to release the locations of covert premises and locations of specific departments lies in non-disclosure.

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 20 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