



**SUFFOLK
CONSTABULARY**
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Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 002287-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 19 June 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

"I would like to request the policy documents that outline the Suffolk Constabulary's current strategy on adult prostitution and sex workers."

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 24 June 2019

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

The Constabulary's current strategy on adult prostitution and sex workers is as follows:

Suffolk Constabulary Strategy for Policing Sex Work and Sexual Exploitation

This strategy will tackle the three aspects of sex working – the individual, the community and those who exploit – whilst concentrating on the risk, threat and harm of all involved in sex work, and the principle of partnership.

Support or create effective partnerships

- *Support practitioners working directly with sex workers, and those at risk of sexual exploitation or other forms of coercion into sexual exploitation*
- *Establish links with key partners to create partnerships to create opportunities for sex workers to access holistic support including; healthcare (particularly, sexual health services and primary care), emotional support and counselling, housing advice and support, training and education, drugs harm reduction, treatment and rehabilitation services, safety advice and support for victims of rape and sexual assault, and opportunities for individuals to exit from prostitution*
- *Engaging with community representatives in creating problem solving opportunities, but avoiding displacement-only options.*

Protect individuals and communities from risk, threat, harm and exploitation

- *Deal with sex worker victims of violent and sexual crimes / incidents as vulnerable victims to engage and build trust and confidence in the Criminal Justice Process*



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- *Ensure staff are fully briefed on the issues and understand their obligations to protect vulnerable and intimidated victims and witnesses*
- *Thoroughly investigate reports of violence and sexual offences made by sex workers (these reports most emphatically must not be treated as “occupational hazards”)*
- *Investigate and deal with the risk threat and harm that can be inflicted on communities by local sex working (harassment of people; environmental; noise/visual pollution; associated crime; exposure to risk by the vulnerable) Deploy intelligence-led visible police patrols in order to build trust with sex workers and communities*
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- *Treat foreign nationals as potential victims of trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation unless and until it becomes clear that they have not been trafficked into the UK, linking with Human Trafficking Strategy*
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- *Safeguard children and young people, connected to, or at risk from sex working, and link in with Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy.*

Investigate and disrupt organised criminal activity

- *Proactive intelligence gathering means to be used, providing full force area problem profiles that can be used at all three levels of the National Intelligence Model (NIM)*
- *Co-ordinate intelligence gathering through NIM to understand the connections with other forms of organized crime and illegal economic activity*
- *Establish investigative and intelligence-building partnerships and information exchange protocols with key partners*
- *Provide safeguarding to sex workers who wish to provide intelligence and evidence against individuals who abuse, exploit and coerce*
- *Using partners and intelligence sources to monitor and potentially close down off-street activity i.e. brothels, following local risk assessments that take into account the risk and threat posed by the premises.*
- *Suffolk Constabulary will take action against those who are controlling, coercing or otherwise forcing men or women to act as prostitutes. This will include trafficking offences, running a brothel, money laundering as well as appropriate sexual offences. Where it is appropriate to do so then action will also be taken against those purchasing sex.*

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