



**SUFFOLK  
CONSTABULARY**  
*Taking pride in keeping Suffolk safe*

## **Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 002738-19**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 30 July 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

*“What is the primary reason for Suffolk Police? Is to protect Life & property?”*

- 1. Should a police officer be sent to a request of assistance when an assault is taking place?*
- 2. Once a crime has been reported should it take months to be investigated?*
- 3. Should the investigating officer ask the person involved to investigate him self?*
- 4. Is it reasonable an investigation to take three months & still not be completed?*

*I am looking for the code of practice or policy police offices should follow when A crime is reported to them under interview at the police station.*

*I am looking for the policy which covers Suffolk police handing out investigations to 3<sup>rd</sup> parties organisations to investigate them selves.!*

*Should a police officer be open minded & un-biased in his investigation from the outset?”*

## **Response to your Request**

The response provided below is correct as of 30 July 2019

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

1. Each incident is assessed using the THRIVE model. The THR stands for Threat, Risk, Harm. The member of staff will assess if any aspect is ongoing, likely to reoccur and the impact. If the assault had taken place and there was no likelihood of reoccurrence it would be deemed more suitable to be followed up in due course and that medical attention takes priority. The IVE stands for investigation, vulnerability and engagement. If the victim is deemed vulnerable then further assessment maybe required and support requested from partners. The current force demand may also determine response as resources maybe required for more immediate life protection matters.

The Police and Crime Plan sets out the Constabulary's objectives for the 2017-2021 years and can be found via the following link:

<https://suffolk-pcc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/POLICE-AND-CRIME-PLAN-FOR-SUFFOLK-2017-2021.pdf>

2. Depending on the offence it might take time to investigate fully. A number of factors can determine the length of time taken, these can include obtaining statements, CCTV review, interviewing suspect/s, officer availability.
3. Due to the constraints on the police service police may well ask victims to support the investigation, e.g. identify CCTV opportunities and identify witnesses.
4. As per answer 2. It should be noted that some offences do have time limits for prosecution, e.g. summarily offences have a 6-month time limit.

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

- (a) States that fact
- (b) Specifies the exemption(s) in question and
- (c) 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 21(1) - Information reasonably accessible by other means**

Information concerning constabulary policy is published on the website and is therefore reasonably accessible by other means as per Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The following link will take you to Crime Management Policy:

<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/sites/suffolk/files/crimemanagement.pdf>

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](mailto: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](http://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