



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

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 003093-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 25 August 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *“Is hate crime included in the police service’s current policing plan?”*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don’t know
 - *If Yes can you send us a pdf copy of the policing plan?*

2. *Does the police service have a separate hate crime plan/strategy?*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don’t know
 - *If yes can you send us a pdf copy of the hate crime plan/strategy?*

3. *Does the police service have a designated hate crime lead?*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don’t know
 - *If yes – can you provide contact details so we can contact them.*

4. *Does the police service facilitate or take part in any hate crime forums?*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don’t know
 - *If yes – can you list the names of the hate crime forums that the police service facilitates or takes part in.*

5. *Does the police service have a designated hate crime information page on its website?*

Yes

No

Don’t know

If yes – please can you provide the URL link?

6. *Does the police service have access to hate crime resources?*
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don’t know



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- *If yes – please can you send us pdf copies of them?*
7. *Does the police service refer victims of hate crime to independent advice and support services?*
- *Yes*
 - *No*
 - *Don't know*
 - *If yes – can you provide a list of independent advice and support services, the police service refers to.*
8. *Is the police service planning to participate in National Hate Crime Awareness Week 2019?*
- *Yes*
 - *No*
 - *Don't know?*
 - *If yes – can you tell us what the police service is planning to do.*
9. *Has the police service participated in previous National Hate Crime Awareness weeks?*
- *Yes*
 - *No*
 - *Don't know*
 - *If yes - please can you tick the years that the police service has taken part in the national week. 2012-2018”*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 23 September 2019

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

1. Hate crime is included in Suffolk Constabulary's current policing plan.

<https://suffolk-pcc.gov.uk/the-commissioner/police-crime-plan>

2. Suffolk Constabulary does have a hate crime strategy and there is a separate hate crime plan, which is joint with the Suffolk County Council. This document is attached for your reference and the below weblinks may also be of assistance.

<https://suffolk-pcc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Action-Plan-July-2019-Published-Variation.pdf>

https://www.suffolk.police.uk/sites/suffolk/files/hate_crime.pdf



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3. The Constabulary's strategic lead for hate crime is Superintendent Kerry Cutler, who can be contacted via the Constabulary's switchboard of 101 or via email Kerry.cutler@suffolk.pnn.police.uk
4. Suffolk Constabulary is a part of the Hate crime Network in partnership with Suffolk County Council.
5. Hate crime information is published on the Constabulary's website and can be found via the following link: <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/about-us/our-policies/hate-crime>
6. The Constabulary does have access to hate crime resources. This information is currently being redesigned in advance of hate crime awareness week, which runs from the 12th October, and includes the following:
 - First Principle hate crime document
 - Tri fold leaflet for victims of hate crime with definitions and reporting mechanisms
 - Powerpoints for internal training
 - Powerpoints in partnership with victim support and hate crime network delivered to members of hate crime network as part of PCC fund.
 - Free online hate crime awareness training module via Suffolk county council

The above documents will be published once they are complete and therefore the exemption at Section 22 is applicable.

The Constabulary's joint continuous improvement plan is attached, which is joint with Suffolk County Council.

7. With consent from the victim, the Constabulary will refer them to the Norfolk and Suffolk victim care service.
8. The Constabulary is hosting an event at Police Headquarters with Suffolk County Council and the Norfolk and Suffolk Victim Service on 17 October 2019. In addition, community engagement officers will undertake visits and engagements throughout the week with a hate crime focus.
9. The Constabulary has participated in several including in 2018, however due to a restructure the Constabulary do not hold the exact details.



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;

Section 22(1) - Information intended for future publication

Section 22 is a qualified, class-based exemption and I am therefore required to produce a Public Interest Test.

Public Interest Test

(When applying a qualified exemption a public authority is required to consider whether 'in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information')

Considerations favouring disclosure

When information disclosed relates directly to the efficiency and effectiveness of the Force or its Officers. In this instance to release the documents would demonstrate greater awareness of strategic planning with regards to tackling hate crime.

In certain cases, providing this information could assist in research that could benefit the community as a whole, again enabling accurate public awareness and debate.

Considerations favouring non-disclosure

To supply this information which is currently in the planning phase, would require a large amount of time to collate the information required, which in turn would detract an individual or individuals from their daily tasks, hindering the efficiency in their posts.

The hate crime awareness week is the 12th October and consequently, the documents will be finalised in the very near future. Therefore, it is appropriate to provide the information once published in the near future, rather than rushing their completion and potentially not producing as comprehensive a document as we would hope to.

The FOIA legally allows members of the Public to request any information held by the Public Authority. In order to supply this information, resources are allocated to locate and retrieve it. The



Section 21 and 22 exemptions were specifically laid down by parliament to benefit those authorities that proactively publish information. To constantly produce new and up to date elements of the currently published information, in order to satisfy an additional need outside of the publication schedule, will render these exemptions less effective and remove the benefits of the proactive publication.

Balancing Test

It is noted that Public Awareness and Debate are key to the FOIA, making Authorities more accountable and providing up to date relevant statistical information, improving knowledge and public understanding of the Force.

However, the information is to be published in the very near future once completed. It would not therefore, be proactive of this Constabulary to produce information in advance of their completion and publication.

It is for the above reasons that Section 22 is engaged.

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