

## **Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 003611-19**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 5 October 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

*“Could you please inform me as to what steps Suffolk Constabulary are using to battle hate crime and statistics as to the rise or fall of race, ethnicity or nationality-based hate crime in Suffolk over the past five years please?”*

### **Response to your Request**

The response provided below is correct as of 21 October 2019

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

In partnership with Suffolk County Council the Constabulary have developed a county wide approach to tackling hate crime. Since January 2018 an officer within the Community Safety Team at Suffolk County Council has been identified to lead the work, and as part of the Constabulary 2025 plans Superintendent Cutler was appointed as the force lead to drive forward change. This has resulted in a joint continuous improvement plan and developments in key partnership areas to ensure the work around hate crime is more joined up, informed by data and victim led.

The vision is to provide a quality service to victims, their families and the wider community and the plan has three key objectives.

- Raise awareness of hate crime;
- Encourage reporting;
- Prevent and challenge prejudices that lead to acts of hate crime;

The plan was further reviewed to ensure it encompasses the recommendations from the HMICFRS thematic 2018 report ‘Understanding the Difference - The Initial Police Response to Hate Crime’ which was published in July. The plan focusses five key areas to tackle hate crime from beginning to end – from understanding the drivers of hate crime and dealing with its causes to providing improved support to victims.

### Governance, Leadership and Accountability



To provide system wide strategic support to a multi-agency Hate Crime Network (HCN) and ensure there is co-ordination and communication between stakeholders within the system. This includes an action to monitor the adherence to the victim's code of practice by Suffolk Police.

Delivery of the action plan will be overseen by the lead officers responsible for the actions, the wider Hate Crime Network and the Police Internal Hate Crime Working Group. Progress will be reported back to the Safer Stronger Communities Group, and internally to the Constabulary Vulnerability Board.

Internally, a Hate Crime Working Group has been established by Superintendent Cutler to progress actions. The Working Group is made up of representatives from across the Constabulary and also from Staff Associations including SEPA, LGBT, SAWP and the Christian Police Association.

#### Increasing reporting and improving support

In order to respond to victim's, we need to ensure that we make the process of reporting crimes and incidents is as easy as possible, whether that's through the police or other reporting mechanisms. The ambition for Suffolk is to have third party reporting through a wide range of partners, enabling victims to have the ability to report and receive support at the same time. Work needs to be done to encourage reporting from groups who may under-report, such as disabled people, Muslim women and new refugee communities. Norfolk and Suffolk Victim Care (previously known as Victim Support) have been commissioned by the Police Crime Commissioner to offer emotional and practical support to victims of Hate Crime. The service is free and confidential; referrals can be made by the Police, partner agencies and self-referral. They play an active part in the network. We will also look to work effectively with perpetrators, working with youth offending and through the principles of restorative justice where appropriate.

#### Local Policing and Engagement

Across the 9 Suffolk Policing Area Localities Community Engagement Officers (CEO) have been created under the Suffolk 2025 model to increase accessibility, engagement and communication in person and online with communities. In addition, whilst the numbers of PCSOs have been significantly reduced those retained will provide a Link Officer Role to work with partners focussing on problem solving and intervention. They will also support policing engagement with vulnerable communities.

The Southern Area Neighbourhood Partnership Team has a specific staff role, Diverse Communities Co-ordinator. The purpose of this role is to assist with the development, promotion and maintenance of positive recruitment initiatives by effective engagement with local communities. They will also support policing engagement with vulnerable communities.



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### **Direct Community Engagement**

- Prevent Officer (supported by Local Policing) provides a visible presence within community and engagement with local communities regarding hate crime. Role also supports SNT with reassurance after a terror attack.
- Supported Prevent stand at the Suffolk show, Fresher's week, Holi Festival and other community events
- Hate Crime Network covering a range of community groups now in place supported by Suffolk County Council and Police.
- Diverse communities post created as part of Project 2025 - work closely with a range of community groups, give presentations and attend a range of drop in sessions, i.e. Refugee Drop in centre at Ipswich. The officers are working with HR regarding positive recruitment initiatives.

From 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> October 2019 the Constabulary supported National Hate Crime Week. Please see the below short video on YouTube. This was created to use at a conference held during the week for police and partners but also to share with partners and externally to highlight the impact of hate crime on the victims.

- <https://intranet.norfolk.police.uk/Sites/Suffolk/Pages/NoHateinSuffolk---Working-together-to-highlight-Hate-Crime.aspx>

Statistics relating to hate crime have previously been disclosed under FOI response number 000193-19, which is attached for your awareness.

Further information concerning hate crime can be found on the Constabulary's website:

<http://www.suffolk.police.uk/about-us/our-policies/hate-crime>

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