

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

**REQUEST NUMBER:** FOI Request 003691/3692-17

**REQUEST DETAILS:**

*"If a person is arrested by the police away from their property and is on medication what steps must the police take to:*

- 1. Ensure the person receives their medication?*
- 2. Are there set procedures the police must follow?*
- 3. Where can i find the relevant procedures?*
- 4. Is this the same procedure for all police forces?"*

**RESPONSE:**

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

*This response is correct as of 22 February 2017.*

1. As part of our booking in procedure, an initial Risk Assessment is undertaken. This Risk Assessment will pose a number of questions to help identify medical needs. This, along with the observations made by the Custody Sgt, will help to determine whether or not a detainee needs to be referred to a medical practitioner at the earliest point in their period of detention.

Irrespective of the Risk Assessment and the decision by a Custody Sgt on whether to refer the detainee to a medical practitioner, all detainees have a right to ask to see a medic at any time during their period of police detention.

Whether a detainee arrives with or without his/her medication, a medical professional (HCP or FME) will be asked to see the detainee, even if the detainee doesn't ask to be seen. The medic will assess the medical needs of a detainee and will determine what medication if any should be prescribed whilst in police custody.

The Medics have access to NHS Summary Care Records and if given consent by the detainee (or if the medic believes it to be in the best interests of the detainee) can view their NHS record on which any prescribed medication should be listed. This assists the medical staff in confirming what may or may not have been declared to the Custody Sgt during the initial Risk Assessment.

All forces have access to medical professionals whose role is to ensure that detainees receive appropriate treatment whilst in police custody- i.e. continuity of care.

2. The police follow PACE Code C section 9 Care and treatment of detained persons and Authorised Professional Practice (College of Policing).

Medical Practitioners commissioned by police forces follow FFLM and other such medical guidelines relevant to their role and registration.

The Faculty of Forensic Legal Medicine (FFLM) has guidance which medical professionals follow in respect of the Safe & Secure Administration of Medication in Police custody. Within these guidelines, Appendix B describes the process by which a medical professional would have to verify a detainee's own medication before deciding whether or not it is safe for them to take it whilst in custody or whether to prescribe an alternative where the medication can be verified.

3. The Faculty of Forensic Legal Medicine (FFLM) website:

<https://fflm.ac.uk/>

Gov.UK – Pace Code C 2017

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pace-code-c-2017>

4. Yes