



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

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 004044-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 8 November 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"A police sergeant (PS 1774 Murray) is present and wearing his force identification or collar number. A PC is also present but has removed his epaulette with his collar number so cannot be identified. Please advise what Home Office instruction/policy/procedure permits any police officer to remove any form of identification when in uniform and during working hours.*
2. *The sergeant present (PS 1774 Murray) objected to being filmed by the saboteurs present who were not arrested but did not object to being filmed by the two hunt supporters who filmed the entire incident. Please advise what Home Office instruction/policy/procedure permits any police officer to object to being filmed when attending an incident and to selectively object to being filmed when attending an incident.*
3. *The sergeant present (PS 1774 Murray) did not have grounds to make an arrest for 'aggravated trespass' as no member of the hunt riders was present or within a reasonable radius at the time of the two hunt saboteurs' arrests.*

According to the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994:

(1) A person commits the offence of aggravated trespass if he trespasses on land [F1 in the open air] and, in relation to any lawful activity which persons are engaging in or are about to engage in on that or adjoining land [F2 in the open air], does anything which is intended by him to have the effect— (a) of intimidating those persons or any of them so as to deter them or any of them from engaging in that activity, (b) of obstructing that activity, or (c) of disrupting that activity.

A hunt would have to prove that their activity at the time was lawful and this did not happen as the hunt was not recorded as present on the video. The only justification provided by PS 1774 Murray was that he had been watching historic hunt saboteur videos which may or may not have included activity by the two saboteurs arrested.

Please advise what Home Office instruction/policy/procedure permits any police officer to make an arrest on the basis of watching historic videos which may or may not have included activity by the two saboteurs arrested instead of on the basis of actions taken by alleged offenders at an actual incident."

Response to your Request



The response provided below is correct as of 21 November 2019

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

1. This information is not held specifically in relation to your request, the Constabulary's Uniform Behaviour Standards force policy document states: *"Numerals or epaulettes must be worn on the shoulders only, of the outermost garment, so as to be visible at all time"*.
2. This information is not held specifically in relation to your request, the Constabulary's Hunts force policy document states: *"Officers should be aware that, when attending such events, it is extremely likely that they will be monitored from both sides (and often filmed) and will likely receive allegations from both sides about the other"*.
3. There is no information held specifically in relation to your request, however in general terms, the police powers of arrest is as follows, which includes both recent and non-recent (historic) offences:

"To arrest you the police need reasonable grounds to suspect you're involved in a crime for which your arrest is necessary."

The police have powers to arrest you anywhere and at any time, including on the street, at home or at work."

The Constabulary suggests that any documentation relating to the Home Office should be sought directly from their FOI Team.

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