



Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 006693-17

I write in connection with your request for information received by Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies on the 4 October 2017 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"Police LSGC Medal: for the purposes of calculating aggregated total service to determine qualification for the Police Long Service and Good Conduct medal in your force, do you take into account service from other police forces? Specifically:*
 - (i) *Other Home Office forces;*
 - (ii) *Ministry of Defence Police;*
 - (iii) *British Transport Police;*
 - (iv) *Civil Nuclear Constabulary.*
2. *In the event of a response of "no" to (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv), is this a Force decision or is this a Home Office stipulation or guidance?"*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 4 October 2017

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

In June 1951 King George VI instituted the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by Royal Warrant. It became available to officers who had completed 20 years pensionable or approved service and who were certified as "being of very good character and conduct".

This includes the Home office forces and the MOD.

Pensionable or approved service is defined by the Home Office within a Home Office Circular, as follows:

Officers having completed 20 years pensionable service (or an aggregate of 20 years pensionable service in one or more police services) will be nominated for the award provided they have been of good conduct.

- Police Cadet Service: Police cadet service is not considered as pensionable and approved service for eligibility for the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.
- MOD police service does count towards the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.
- RAF, Army, Navy and Specials service does not count towards the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.
- Maternity Leave: Providing the period of maternity leave is pensionable, e.g. as defined in the Police Pensions (Amendment) Regulations 2004, it should count as qualifying service for the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

- Part-Time Working: Providing the officer works the required number of 20 years that he or she is eligible for the award.
- Overseas Police Service: For service abroad to be pensionable the police officer must have been seconded there under the Police (Overseas) Service Act 1945 or the International Development Act 2002. An officer will only become eligible for the medal when s/he returns to work for their substantive constabulary.
- Career Break: A career break is not pensionable service and therefore career breaks are discounted in the calculation of long service.
- Gaps between forces: Providing the officer works the required number of years (20 years) then he or she should be considered for the award of the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal regardless of the length of gap between services.

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/>

Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies are 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.

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 the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary to review their decision.

Ask Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies to look at the decision again.

If you are dissatisfied with the decision made by Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies under the Freedom of Information Act (2000), regarding access to information, you must notify the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary that you are requesting a review within 20 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 Norfolk and 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 Norfolk and 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