



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

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 000893-21

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 15 March 2021 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *“Does your police force, as of the current date, have an Independent Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel?
 - a) *If yes: How often do they meet? I) What date (DD/MM/YYYY) was the panel first operational? II) How many of the people currently on the panel are from a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic background? (could you also tell me the total number of people on the panel as of the current date).*
 - b) *If your force does have such a panel, are panel members made to review a sample of stop and search records and related body-worn video footage at meetings? This can be a simple Yes or No answer.*
 - c) *If your force does have such a panel, what sort of mandatory training do panel members receive in order to perform their role?*
 - d) *If your force does not currently have an operational Independent Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel, have official plans been drawn up that would see the implementation of one in the future? (If so, please specify when)**
2. *Does your force provide body-worn video cameras to your officers? If so, to which ones, and is its use mandatory for specific activities (for example, but not limited to: during stop and searches- please specify)?
 - a) *If they are indeed provided to officers, between 1 March 2020 and 28 February 2021, how often did your police force review body-worn video footage as part of your internal monitoring and external scrutiny of stop and search and use of force?”**

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 6 April 2021

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

1. Suffolk Constabulary does have an Independent Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel.

a) The scrutiny came about around 2008 following the commissioning of a report by ISCRE (Ipswich and Suffolk Council for Racial Equality) – with recommendations for an independent scrutiny process. It has been going strong since, and in the last few years has moved to bi-monthly meetings (6 in a year).

b) Yes – External panel members do this prior to the public facing meeting

c) ISCRE are hosts to the panel, which is an open public meeting forum so essentially anyone can attend. We advertise the ability for members to join the ‘ride along’ scheme (outside of COVID) with a view that they get exposure to observing operational policing. At the same time, members of ISCRE are practicing solicitors and legal advocates who are able to impart legal knowledge to the group at large. There is no formal training course to be able to join the panel – as we are keen to keep the invite as broad as possible.

d) n/a

2. All front-line uniformed officers are intended to receive body worn video units. We are in the process of moving over to a new supplier/version of the unit so some officers are not currently in receipt of these, but by and large most officers will have a unit. Our Force Policy states that body worn video should be turned on for operational matters such as conducting stop and search, and that there would have to be exceptional and well rationale cause to not turn on BWV during such interactions.

a) We use ISCRE members to also externally review random body worn stop search video. Due to information management issues, we keep this to ISCRE members as they are vetted and will sign a non-disclosure document to protect identities of those involved from being made publicly available. COVID has prevented this activity of late, however prior to this we were showing 2 random stop searches between every stop and search scrutiny panel.

b) Internally we also dip sample random stop search footage at a meeting chaired by the ACC approximately every 3 months. At that meeting is professional standards representation, training, stop search leads, and some operational cops and supervisors all able to pass comment. We review about 3 incidents at each meeting.

Work is also underway via the coercive powers group (a joint Norfolk/Suffolk meeting looking at an array of police powers and their impacts) to scope the implementation of more routine review of body worn video by supervisors for their officers as part of the ongoing professional development review.



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