



**SUFFOLK
CONSTABULARY**
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Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 001270-21

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 8 April 2021 in which you sought access to the following information:

“Freedom of Information request into Out of Court Disposals Scrutiny Panels

I would be grateful if you could provide the following data under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

1. Whether there is a scrutiny panel in existence in your area, and whether this is active

And if there is an active scrutiny panel in your area:

2. Who attends the panel on a regular basis?

3. What the outcomes of the panel are, and how they are shared with the police and public.”

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 19 April 2021

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

A joint Norfolk & Suffolk Out of Court Disposals Scrutiny Panel has been in existence since 2013 and has met on a quarterly basis since its establishment until the implementation of the national lockdown on 23rd March 2020.

Since that date the panel has been on a brief hiatus while the Coronavirus pandemic has restricted our opportunities to meet but we are currently working on setting a date for the next meeting of the panel.

The panel is regularly attended by: CPS, Norfolk Youth Offending Team, Suffolk Youth Justice Service, Norfolk Bench Magistrate, Suffolk Bench Magistrate, PCC's Office representatives from Norfolk and Suffolk, representatives from County Policing Commands from both counties, Probation, and is administrated and attended by staff/officers within the Criminal Justice Unit of Norfolk Constabulary.

Cases that are reviewed by the panel receive one of three possible outcomes:



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- 1) Appropriate and consistent with national and local guidelines
- 2) Appropriate with comments from the Panel
- 3) Inappropriate use of Out of Court Disposal

The findings of the panel are published on the websites of the Norfolk & Suffolk PCCs for public awareness. Where necessary, feedback will be provided to officers and supervisors within departments where it was found that an Out of Court Disposal was issued inappropriately.

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