



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 001714-20

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies on 20 May 2020 which you sought access to the following information:

1. *“Can you provide the total number of police officers with approved business interests as of 6th of April 2020.*
2. *Can the data be broken down into gender and rank please?*
3. *Do the force provide any business support or guidance to those with business interests? if so, where can it be found?”*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 20 May 2020

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

Information concerning the Constabularies register of interests is published on a quarterly basis on the publication scheme. Although currently the data is published up to February 2020, there will be another publication in due course covering the period requested.

The information does not include police officer rank and gender, which are included below in separate tables to ensure no one person can be identified from the disclosure.

Rank	Norfolk	Suffolk
A/Inspector	1	
A/D/Inspector		1
T/DCC	1	
C/Superintendent	1	
Chief Constable	1	
Chief Inspector	1	4
D/Superintendent	3	

D/Constable	51	41
D/C/Inspector		3
D/Inspector	5	4
D/Sergeant	16	6
Inspector	8	8
Constable	196	122
Sergeant	39	24
Superintendent	1	1
T/C/Inspector	1	1
T/Sergeant		1
T/Superintendent	1	
TOTAL	326	216

Gender	Norfolk	Suffolk
Female	108	65
Male	218	151
TOTAL	326	216

Information Act 2000 requires that Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) is to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) States that fact
- (b) Specifies the exemption(s) in question and
- (c) States (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption(s) applies.

The information is exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemptions;

Section 21(1) – Information available via other means

Section 22(1) – Information intended for future publication

<https://www.norfolk.police.uk/about-us/our-data/publication-scheme-0/lists-and-registers>

<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/about-us/our-data/publication-scheme/list-and-registers>

The Constabularies policy concerning business interests and additional occupations is available via the following link:

[https://www.suffolk.police.uk/sites/suffolk/files/001546-18 -
_business_interests_and_additional_occupations_policy.pdf](https://www.suffolk.police.uk/sites/suffolk/files/001546-18_-_business_interests_and_additional_occupations_policy.pdf)

Section 22 is a qualified, class-based exemption and I am therefore required to produce a Public Interest Test.

Public Interest Test

(When applying a qualified exemption a public authority is required to consider whether 'in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information')

Considerations favouring disclosure

The information will demonstrate the Constabularies are actively monitoring the business interests registered through the Professional Standards Department to ensure they conform to force policy, allowing effective public debate concerning the register of interests.

Provision of the information will ensure the public are informed and provides information to assist in research that could benefit the community as a whole, again enabling accurate public awareness and debate.

Considerations favouring non-disclosure

To supply information that is currently being prepared would result in the report being produced ahead of schedule. It is imperative that all associated personal are allowed to consider the information prior to its publication, to allow for considered and precise ratification.

The data is published in line with national ICO requirements. The FOIA legally allows members of the Public to request any information held by the Public Authority. In order to supply this information, resources are allocated to locate and retrieve it. The Section 21 and 22 exemptions were specifically laid down by parliament to benefit those authorities that proactively publish information. To have to provide information that is currently being considered for publication will render these exemptions less effective and remove the benefits of the proactive publication.

Balancing Test

It is noted that Public Awareness and Debate are key to the FOIA, making Authorities more accountable and providing up to date relevant statistical information, improving knowledge and public understanding of the Force.

However, it has been confirmed that this information will be published in line with nationally agreed publication timescales. Application of the exemption at this time will allow for an accurate and concise ratification process. It would not be in the best interest of the public to expedite this process if to do so would impact the precision of the information.

It would not therefore be practical for the Constabularies to produce information prior to the publication of the report and the Section 22 exemption is engaged.

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 40 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