

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

REQUEST NUMBER: 8 - 2026

REQUEST DETAILS:

I am writing to make a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

As the Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk, your office has responsibility for setting policing priorities, holding the Chief Constable to account, and overseeing complaints and conduct. I would like to request the following information:

- 1. Is the PCC aware of the drug and alcohol testing policy used by Suffolk Constabulary for its officers, police staff, and contractors? If so, does the PCC hold a copy of that policy, and has the PCC reviewed or approved it?*
- 2. Does the Suffolk Constabulary drug testing policy include the following safeguards:*
 - (a) Confirmatory laboratory testing (e.g. LC-MS/MS or GC-MS) before any adverse action is taken on the basis of an immunoassay screening result;*
 - (b) Review by an independent Medical Review Officer (MRO) or equivalent qualified professional;*
 - (c) Consideration of lawful explanations for a positive result, including the use of commercially available CBD products, prescribed cannabinoid-based medicines (e.g. Sativex, Epidiolex), or dietary sources;*
 - (d) Referral to Occupational Health before disciplinary proceedings?*
- 3. In the last three years, has the PCC received any complaints, representations, or correspondence from officers, staff, or members of the public regarding Suffolk Constabulary's drug testing procedures or outcomes?*
- 4. Has the PCC commissioned, funded, or overseen any substance misuse or drug testing services in the Suffolk area? If so, do the commissioning contracts or service specifications require the safeguards listed in Question 2?*
- 5. Is the PCC aware of any officer or staff member of Suffolk Constabulary who has been dismissed or subjected to disciplinary action based solely on an unconfirmed immunoassay drug screening result (i.e. without confirmatory laboratory testing)?*

RESPONSE

1. The Suffolk Constabulary Managing Substance Misuse Policy is published online and available via the following link: [Managing Substance Misuse Policy](#).

The PCC holds the Chief Constable to account via the Accountability and Performance Panel, and this includes regular papers on Workforce. These are published on the OPCC website: [Accountability and Performance Panel](#).

2. Please review the Managing Substance and Misuse Policy referenced within the response to question one.
3. The PCC has received no complaints, representations or correspondence regarding Suffolk Constabulary's drug testing procedures or outcomes in the last three years.
4. The PCC has not commissioned, funded, or overseen any substance misuse or drug testing services in the Suffolk area.
5. The PCC is not aware of any officer or staff member of Suffolk Constabulary who has been dismissed or subjected to disciplinary action based solely on an unconfirmed immunoassay drug screening result.

However, the criteria provided is not sufficiently specific for the OPCC to undertake a search of our files for documents relating to this. Please therefore submit a further FOI request with additional detail if you require further information on this element.