

ELECTION GUIDANCE FOR CANDIDATES
UPON ENGAGEMENT WITH SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY AND
THE OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

This guidance sets out how the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and Suffolk Constabulary will engage with candidates in the election for a police and crime commissioner for Suffolk to be held on 6 May 2021.

General

A number of general principles will guide the activity of the OPCC and Constabulary, their officers and staff in performing their roles during the period up to the election:

- they will not engage in activity which favours, or appears to favour one candidate against another;
- they will not engage in activity likely to affect or influence the outcome of the election;
- there will be even-handedness in meeting information requests from candidates;
- action will not be taken to do something for one candidate that would not be undertaken for another.

Correspondence from Candidates and the Handling of Requests for Information

Candidates are invited to send any requests for information to the Chief Constable and Chief Executive for consideration of a response. The Chief Executive will prepare a response to any request in conjunction with the Constabulary. Any response provided together with the request for information, will be posted on the OPCC's website. The publication of the request and the response will not be attributable to the person making the request.

Requests for Fact Finding/Media visits

Candidates may wish to make visits to police stations and Safer Neighbourhood Teams. Requests for such visits that are for the purpose of fact finding and receiving briefings will be regarded as reasonable requests. However visits solely intended to generate publicity for a candidate will not be regarded as reasonable. Approval will not be given to visits and events with a party political or campaigning purpose.

Requests for such visits will be considered under the prevailing circumstances concerning COVID-19 at the time they are made. If a physical visit is not, because of the circumstances, felt to be

appropriate then consideration will be given to how the purpose of the visit may be achieved in an alternative way.

Use of Police Images and Livery

The imagery and livery of the OPCC or Constabulary must not be used in any political material. Permission is not granted to use any pre-existing photographs or publicity involving officers or staff in election campaign publicity.

Christopher Jackson
Chief Executive
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Steve Jupp
Chief Constable
Suffolk Constabulary

1 November 2020