

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

REQUEST NUMBER: 7 - 2021

REQUEST DETAILS:

1. In what ways has your police force tried to still engage with the public despite the pandemic?
2. What are your opinions on the use of technology to report crimes?
3. Do you believe the police should wider their use of technology? For example, taking statements online or by phone?
4. Has your police force used technology to interact more with the public during the pandemic? If so, how?
5. With restrictions and more police powers, how do you believe the public's confidence has changed during the pandemic?
6. What lessons do you believe policing can learn from the past year?

RESPONSE

1. This request relates to information held by Suffolk Constabulary. You would therefore need to contact the Suffolk Constabulary Freedom of Information department for the most comprehensive response available.

Suffolk Constabulary provided a Covid-19 update to the Accountability and Performance Panel on two occasions and links to these reports are included below for your reference.

[OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR SUFFOLK \(suffolk-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.suffolk-pcc.gov.uk)

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2. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) holds no written documentation in response to the question raised. However, the Police and Crime Commissioner has stated "Using a variety of methods to report crimes is welcome as it provides more choice and can be more cost effective. Technology has a leading role to play in this area with live chat being an example of a successful additional tool provided to the public, as is the submission of reports via the Constabulary website. I am always interested in considering new uses of technology as long as it improves efficiency and effectiveness."



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3. The OPCC holds no written documentation in relation to the question raised. However, the Police and Crime Commissioner has stated "As stated above in response to question 2, there is huge potential for widening the use of technology in this area."
4. This request relates to information held by Suffolk Constabulary. You would therefore need to contact the Suffolk Constabulary Freedom of Information department for the most comprehensive response available.
5. The OPCC holds no written documentation in relation to the question raised. However, the Police and Crime Commissioner has stated "It is currently too early to assess. Some levels of crime have decreased such as burglary whereas online crime and domestic abuse / violence has increased so we will have to assess the situation as lockdown measures continue to ease and more data on this subject becomes available."
6. The OPCC holds no written documentation in relation to the question raised. However, the Police and Crime Commissioner has stated "Continuing to improve communication, explaining to the public why and what is being done is crucial as this reinforces the British value of policing by consent. Internally the flexible response shown by Suffolk Constabulary as a whole has demonstrated what can be delivered when required."