

Reply to: Leah Smith

Tel No: 01953 423506

18 December 2020

Dear Member of Public,

Freedom of Information Request FOI/OPCCN/192

I am writing in connection with your email dated 9 December 2020, in which you requested the following information:

“Could the force FOI team provide data on the following questions for 2019-2020.

(1) From 1st January 2019-2020 to date how many people in total have sat as members on Independent Advisory groups (IAG)

(2) From 1st January 2019-2020 to date how many people of South Asian ethnicity have sat as members on Independent Advisory groups (IAG)

(3) Can you breakdown those identified in the answer to Q2 by the numbers of male and female South Asian members of IAGs since 1st January 2019- 2020?

(4) How many IAGs does your force currently have, and can you provide some details of their purpose?

(5) Do you have any specific IAGs that deal with South Asian issues? Such as IAGs set up in mosques and temples.

(6) Are all IAG members subject to a DBS check by your force?

(7) What is the vetting process

Section 2: Further questions

Could the FOI team provide the following information to the questions below.

1: Does the force follow any guidelines or procedures when seeking guidance from IAG groups or members around issues specific to Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities. For example community cohesion, honour based violence, forced

marriage etc. If so please disclose a copy of all relevant documents for these guidelines and procedures.

2: Do IAG members need to sign non -disclosure or confidentiality agreements? If so is this voluntary or compulsory?

3: Do IAG members need to declare any conflict of interest on any matters they are consulted on?"

I have reviewed our records and I can advise the following:

1. Eleven members
2. None.
3. N/A.
4. The Norfolk IAG is governed by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk (OPCCN). The Norfolk Independent Advisory Group (IAG) is a group of local residents from different community backgrounds who work alongside the OPCCN and Norfolk Constabulary. The group offers opinions, advice and share their community-based perspectives with the aim of improving the quality of policing services for everyone.
The IAG has a key role to play in helping to increase the public's trust and confidence in the police, particularly amongst minority communities. Its members help with monitoring the quality of service Norfolk Constabulary provides to the diverse communities of Norfolk, with particular emphasis on hate crime, critical/major incidents, policies and procedures, and Stop and Search.
5. No.
6. All members must go through the NPPV2 vetting process and be cleared before they can become a member of IAG. However, it does state in the Terms of Reference (TOR): "If an IAG member has been investigated, arrested or has previous convictions this does not automatically exclude them from the body. Review of vetting and final decision for inclusion will be made by the OPCCN and Force Strategic Lead".
7. As per question 6.

Section 2:

1. This information is not held by the OPCCN. This may be held by Norfolk Constabulary.
2. All members are required to sign a confidentiality agreement. Any failure or refusal to sign the agreement will result in exclusion from the IAG.
3. Norfolk IAG members must disclose any interest, membership or subscription to any organisation or group that may have inappropriate views on religion, race, sexual orientation, gender or disability. The decision as to whether a member has interests deemed to be in conflict with independent advice rests with the OPCCN Strategic Lead. This decision will be final.

Yours sincerely

L. Smith

Leah Smith
Complaints and Compliance Officer and FOI Decision Maker
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk

Internal Review

If you think we have not supplied information in accordance with Section 1 (the General Right of Access) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, or you are dissatisfied with the way in which your request has been handled, then you should write within 40 days of the date of the response to:

Mark Stokes
Chief Executive
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk
Jubilee House
Falconers Chase
Wymondham
Norfolk
NR18 0WW

Telephone: 01953 424455

Email: opccn@norfolk.pnn.police.uk

If you are dissatisfied in any way with our response or the way we have handled your request, you can contact us by phone, email or in writing. We may, in the first instance, try and resolve your complaint informally. However, at any stage you can request or we may decide to treat your complaint formally under our internal review process.

An internal review is conducted by the Chief Executive who will review the request and response, taking account of your complaint(s), and will respond in writing as soon as possible. The Information Commissioner's Office recommends that a response should be made in 20 working days. If we are unable to respond in this timeframe we will inform you and provide a date by which you should expect to receive our response.

If, after the internal review, you remain dissatisfied then you can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office, the government regulator for the Freedom of Information Act. Details of how to contact the Information Commissioner's Office can be found at www.ico.org.uk