



Reply to: Leah Smith
Telephone: 01953 424455
Date: 22 September 2025

Dear Member of Public,

RE: Freedom of Information Request FOI/OPCCN/257

I am writing in connection with your email dated 23 August 2025, in which you requested the following information:

I hereby request copies of all emails between and/or involving email threads with the PCC, Sarah Taylor, and Councillor Francis Bone. This applies to any emails where Councillor Bone emailed from his Borough Council address or any other email address.

This request covers the period from 2 May 2024 to 23 August 2025.

I have reviewed our records and can advise the following:

Please find attached an email from PCC Sarah Taylor to Councillor Francis Bone. No other information is held.

Yours sincerely

L. Smith

Leah Smith
Complaints and Compliance Manager 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
Building 7
Falconers Chase
Wymondham
Norfolk
NR18 0WW

Telephone: 01953 424455

Email: opccn@norfolk.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

From: [Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk](#)
To: Chief.ExecutiveandLeaderPA@West-Norfolk.gov.uk
Cc:

clfr.francis.bone@west-norfolk.gov.uk;

Subject: RE: Letter from the Chief Executive re Local Government Reorganisation
Date: 07 March 2025 16:32:28
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.jpg](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.jpg](#)
[250307 JBM Letter from the PCC to BCKLWN ST.pdf](#)

Good afternoon

Please find attached letter from the PCC for the attention of Kate Blackmore.

Kind regards

=====

(He/Him)

Business Support Officer

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk

t: 01953 424455 **w:** www.norfolk-pcc.gov.uk

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From: Chief Executive and Leader PA <Chief.ExecutiveandLeaderPA@West-Norfolk.gov.uk>

Sent: 27 February 2025 16:01

To: TAYLOR, PCC Sarah <Sarah.TAYLOR1@norfolk.police.uk>

Subject: Letter from the Chief Executive re Local Government Reorganisation

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation.

Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon

Please find attached a letter from Kate Blakemore for your attention and response.

Many thanks and kind regards,

PA to Chief Executive and Leader

(Monday and Wednesday)



This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the sender.

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Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Norfolk
Jubilee House, Falconers Chase, Wymondham, NR18 0WW

Telephone: 01953 424455
Email: opccn@norfolk.police.uk
Web: norfolk-pcc.gov.uk

Borough Council of King's Lynn
& West Norfolk
King's Court
Chapel Street
King's Lynn
PE30 1EX

JM/BSO

07 March 2025

Dear Kate

Thank you for your letter of 27 February 2025.

The dialogue relating to both the proposed devolution for Norfolk and Suffolk, and the local government review (LGR) has great potential to unlock benefits for people living or working across both counties. I would stress that my view is that, at its heart, the consideration of the LGR must place Norfolk residents and businesses first.

Ultimately, if the proposition does not result in tangible benefits for people living or working in our county, it cannot be the right option.

That said, as Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk I am acutely interested in both devolution and the LGR, not least to ensure continued service provision across both counties during the period of reorganisation (and beyond) through the Constabularies. In addition, the shared space arrangements between Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies means that I have an interest in the health of the policing service in both counties.

Police and Crime Plan – Putting Prevention First

You will be aware that my Police and Crime Plan is to be launched imminently. As discussed recently at the Police and Crime Panel, this will focus on Putting Prevention First and how deep collaboration with partners, including our councils, is critical to achieving this. This means that I am particularly concerned to ensure that the services that are currently provided by our District and County councils are maintained going forward. This includes, but is not limited to, the provision of street wardens, youth services, multi-agency help hubs, housing provision for vulnerable people, and support for people recovering from domestic abuse via re-homing services for example.

It is therefore vital that the new authorities are empowered, politically and financially, to continue these services so that strong partnerships can be created to prevent crime and reduce harm in our area.

Local Government Review in Norfolk

I welcome the LGR and the particular opportunity to create place-based councils to better represent

people across our area. As a consultee to the process being led by the County and District councils I would make the following observations.

1. Prioritising a place-based approach

I am particularly focused on the need for, whatever the outcome of the LGR, better place-based political representation and action for people living and working in Norfolk. I was concerned to read of a proposal mooted to provide a single unitary authority across the county. My view is that this would be a retrograde step, resulting in our smaller towns and villages being over-looked due to the centre of gravity associated with our city and larger urban centres.

Whatever the outcome in terms of numbers of unitaries, my preferred option would see there being smaller unitary authorities in year one, with forecast growths in population being taken into account to ensure good representation in the mid-term i.e. avoiding over-sized unitaries which swell further as a result of necessary house building.

2. Unified approach to protecting vulnerable people

The strong and tangible benefits of a unified approach to protecting vulnerable people, e.g. through the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub have been recently acknowledged in the Joint Targeted Area Inspection undertaken in Norfolk. There is a risk that this may be inadvertently lost through the LGR, thereby losing the mature and beneficial service that supports policing in the county.

Losing this unified provision would be severely detrimental to the prevention of harm and to the adequacy of response when harm occurs. I would therefore particularly welcome discussions to be held as soon as possible between all parties to ensure that this unified and consistent approach is maintained going forward.

3. Ensuring financial sustainability

At present, the hotspots for services are largely focused in Norwich, King's Lynn and Great Yarmouth. The services provided in these areas are of course funded through precept collected from other parts of the county. While a change to smaller unitary authorities may well be beneficial for people in our market towns and villages (because their precepts will be able to cover the required service provision in their area), there is potential in the LGR, for the funding of services to lack financial sustainability.

I am concerned that this aspect may not have sufficient attention paid at this early stage due to the scope for unpalatable decision making, for example related to Council Tax alignment across the new unitary areas.

There is a balance to be struck between smaller forms of government to ensure good representation, and financial sustainability. While there is no doubt a need for initial, very early stage financial controls to ensure quick stabilisation of the new authorities, I would advocate for a model which (i) provides surety on continued financing of key services within each unitary and (ii) enables differentiated provision for services according to communities' needs.

I trust that this is helpful in forming your views, and I look forward to hearing from you in due course with regards to the development of Norfolk's proposition.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Taylor'.

Sarah Taylor
Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk

CC:

Leaders and Chief Executives of Norfolk County and District Councils
Labour Leaders for Norfolk County and District Councils
Members of Parliament for Norfolk
Chair of Norfolk and Suffolk Foundation Trust
Chair of Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board
Chief Constable for Norfolk Constabulary
Chair Police and Crime Panel