



**Reply to:** Leah Smith

**Telephone:** 01953 424455

**Date:** 24 October 2025

Dear Member of Public,

## **RE: Freedom of Information Request FOI/OPCCN/258**

I am writing in connection with your email dated 30 August 2025, in which you requested the following information:

**A) A breakdown of all expenditure incurred by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk in connection with Pride events May 2024 to date (but not limited to):**

- 1) Sponsorship fees, donations, grants to Pride organisers and advertising expenditure**
- 2) Costs associated with attendance (e.g. travel, staffing, overtime)**
- 3) Promotional materials (e.g. branded merchandise, flags, banners)**
- 4) External consultancy or communications support**

**B) Internal business cases, budget approvals, or decision records authorising such expenditure in 2024/25 to date, including:**

- 5) value-for-money assessments**
- 6) equality, diversity and inclusion assessments**
- 7) related risk assessments**
- 8) and/or alignment with the Police and Crime Plan**

**C) Emails and other material sent to or received by the PCC, Dr Gavin Thompson, and any other relevant nominated budget holder(s) (including copied to the PCC, Dr Gavin Thompson & the budget holder) including grant applications and funding & advertising requests and related contracts relating to any Pride organisation or event in 2024/25 including Plíce FIRE.**

I have reviewed our records and can advise the following:

### Section A

1. A £2,500.00 grant was awarded to King's Lynn and West Norfolk Pride 2025 by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk (OPCCN).
2. Costs associated with attendance of King's Lynn and West Norfolk Pride was a total of £34.00.
3. No promotional materials were purchased for pride events.
4. No external consultancy, or communications support was provided or paid for.

### Section B

5. The decision to award the grant was based on previous applications to the Police Property Act Fund - Small Grants Round Grant, which were not awarded. The awards were reviewed by the OPCCN statutory officers, and subject to that review, the decision was forwarded to the PCC to approve their direct award decisions. As such, a value for money assessment was not required as the grants were awarded utilising a light touch grant agreement.
6. No information is held by the OPCCN.
7. No information is held by the OPCCN.
8. The grant referred to in A1 was provided under the 'cohesive communities' priority of the Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029.

### Section C

The decision notice for this funding is available publicly on our website here: [2025-26 Crime and Disorder Reduction Grant Awards](#).

The OPCCN is withholding some internal correspondence under section 36(2)(b)(i) and (ii) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. These subsections apply where disclosure of information would, or would be likely to, inhibit the free and frank provision of advice or the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation. Further information about the exemption is provided below.<sup>i</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The information withheld consists of internal emails between OPCCN officers discussing the administration and assessment of the Police Property Act Fund grant round. These discussions include candid advice, opinions, and recommendations about relative merits of applications and the management of the grant process. Disclosure of this information would be likely to inhibit the ability of staff to express themselves openly and frankly in future, particularly when evaluating competing bids and making funding recommendations. The OPCCN relies on staff being able to exchange honest and robust views in confidence to ensure fair and evidence-based decisions.

In accordance with the requirements of section 36(2), the "qualified person" for the OPCCN – the Police and Crime Commissioner – has given a reasonable opinion that this exemption is engaged. That opinion is based on consideration of the specific content and context of the withheld material, and the likely impact disclosure would have on future decision-making.

In accordance with section 36(5)(o)(ii) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Norfolk is the **qualified person** for the purposes of this exemption. The PCC has been consulted and has given their **reasonable opinion** that disclosure of the withheld information would, or would be likely to, inhibit the free and frank provision of advice and the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation. This opinion was given on 21 October 2025, having reviewed the relevant information from OPCCN officers.

As section 36(2) is a qualified exemption, the OPCCN has carried out the public interest test. It recognises a strong public interest in transparency regarding how public funds are distributed. However, this must be balanced against the public interest in maintaining a safe space for staff to deliberate openly and provide free and frank advice without concern that those discussions will later be made public. On balance, the OPCCN considers that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Yours sincerely

L. Smith

Leah Smith

Complaints and Compliance Manager and FOI Decision Maker  
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk

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## 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](mailto: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](http://www.ico.org.uk)