



April 2019

Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 001105/19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Norfolk Constabulary on the 20th March 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

- 1 What is the force's approach towards the enforcement of cannabis offences when it comes to: (a) cannabis possession, (b) cannabis dealing, and (c) organised crime to do with cannabis supply such as factories and farms?
- 2 Is the enforcement of cannabis offences a priority for the force? If so, what are the reasons for this? If not, what are the reasons for this?
- 3 What is the force's approach towards using the smell of cannabis as a reason to Stop and Search an individual and what informs this approach?
- 4 Does the force have any specific units/initiatives designed for the enforcement of cannabis?
- 5 Any other comments the force would like to make with regards to cannabis offences?

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 21st March 2019.

Norfolk Constabulary has located the following information as relevant to your request.

- Q1 The Constabulary does not hold a policy which specifically relates to cannabis offences.
- Q2 Force priorities are determined through the Force Management Statement. This is published on the Norfolk Constabulary website, via the link provided below:-

<https://www.norfolk.police.uk/sites/norfolk/files/forcemanagementstatementnorfolk2018.pdf>

Under Section 21(1) of the Freedom of Information Act (2000), public authorities are not required to provide information that is reasonably accessible to the public by other means; in this case via the Constabulary's website, therefore in accordance with Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000), this serves as a Refusal Notice for this part of your request.

- Q3 Please see below extract from the force policy document for Stop and Search:-

Stopping on the Smell of Cannabis Only

4.13 National statistics indicate that approximately 80% of searches conducted based on smell of cannabis alone are unsuccessful. There is no objective basis for a search based on smell of cannabis alone. Norfolk and Suffolk Chief Officer Teams have agreed that it will no longer be acceptable to carry out a stop search on the smell of cannabis alone and other aggravating factors must be taken into account. Whilst not an exhaustive list this could include:

- Recent intelligence that subject involved in drug offences
- Witnesses who have seen drugs present at the time cannabis was smelt

- Other visual indicators of drug use
- Appropriate safeguarding measures for vulnerable persons
- Public confidence need.

Q4 No information held.

Q5 The Freedom of Information Act provides the public with a right to submit requests for the publication of recorded information held by a public authority. There is no requirement under the Act for the Constabulary to provide a comment.