

Reply to: Leah Smith

Tel No: 01953 423506

3rd March 2023

Dear Member of Public,

Freedom of Information Request FOI/OPCCN/218

I am writing in connection with your email dated 8th February 2023, in which you requested the following information:

“Please can you send me copies of all of the survey submissions that were received from the residents of Norfolk, in regard to the increase in council tax for the police precept for 2023.

Also, can you please breakdown & itemise the following:-

- 1) the total amount of submissions received**
- 2) the total that were invalid & please state as to why they were invalid & mark those said submission copies by way of reference**
- 3) those which were valid & please state & mark them by way of reference**
- 4) of those which were valid, please state how many agreed & how many disagreed**
- 5) Please state how & by whom were these validated by?**
- 6) Are they readily available for inspection?”**

I have reviewed our records and can advise the following:

We are unable to provide copies of the survey submissions that were received during the police precept consultation for 2023/24. This information is exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) of the FOI Act. This exempts personal data if disclosure would breach any of the data protection principles. This is because we have obligations under the Data Protection Act not to disclose, to a third party, personal information about another person(s). Whilst we do not request personal information as part of the consultation process, a significant number of submissions disclose potentially identifiable information. Additionally, the terms of the consultation states that where personal information is provided, we will ensure this is kept anonymous. Furthermore, under Section 14(1) of the FOI Act we are not obliged to disclose this information due to the level of burden upon the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk (OPCCN), as your request includes a substantial volume of information.

However, we are able to respond to your request as per below:

1. 1092 submissions were received.
2. 204. These were invalid due to respondents not clicking 'submit' at the end of the survey online.
3. There were 888 valid surveys.
4. 453 of the valid submissions agreed with the proposed increase. 380 disagreed and 15 submissions neither agreed nor disagreed.
5. The OPCCN uses 'Smart Survey' software to collect survey submissions. This software uses an automated system to validate the submissions based on whether the 'submit' button had been clicked or not as per point 2.
6. No, as per exemptions stated above.

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