



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

**REQUEST NUMBER: F-2009- 04701**

**REQUEST DETAILS:**

- “1. Prior to 1st January 2005 had any members of your Police Force been disciplined in connection with membership of:-*

  - a) The British National Party;*
  - b) Combat 18; or*
  - c) The National Front*

*Please provide details of how many and the outcomes of such disciplinary procedures if any.*
- 2. After 1st January 2005 have any members of your Police Force been disciplined in connection with membership of:-*

  - a) The British National Party;*
  - b) Combat 18; or*
  - c) The National Front*

*Please provide details of how many and the outcomes of such disciplinary procedures if any.*
- 3. After 1st January 2005 did you review the Human Rights implications of the restriction? Please supply minutes and other documentation relating to such a review.*
- 4. The restriction relates to membership. Do you consider that there is any restriction on a member of your Police Force:-*

  - a) Donating to the British National Party*
  - b) Subscribing to a British National Party publication*
  - c) Purchasing goods from the British National Party*
  - d) Signing a petition in favour of the British National Party*
  - e) Signing a nomination form for a British National Party candidate”*

**RESPONSE:**

1. No Police Staff or Officers of Suffolk Constabulary have been disciplined in connection with membership with the BNP, Combat 18 or National Front before January 2005.
2. No Police Staff or Officers of Suffolk Constabulary have been disciplined in connection with membership with the BNP, Combat 18 or National Front since January 2005.
3. Suffolk Constabulary does not hold any information to answer this part of your request.



# SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

4. In accordance with the Information Commissioner's Guidance on FOI requests, I am not obliged to respond to this part of your request, as it is not considered a valid FOI request. Under FOI we are not obliged to supply expressions of opinion as this would mean creating new information or giving an opinion or judgement that is not already recorded. However, the following decision taken by the ACPO Chief Constables Council in 2004 may assist you:

*"No member of the police service, whether police officer or police staff, maybe a member of an organisation whose constitution, aims, objectives or pronouncements contradict the general duty to promote race equality. This specifically includes the British National Party." It added that, "in view of the importance on public confidence of meeting the general duty to promote race equality established in the Race Relations (Amendment Act) 2000, it is anticipated that non-compliance will result in dismissal."*

This position is judged to be consistent with Regulation 6 of the Police (Amendment) Regulations 2003 and with Paragraph 12 of the Police Code of Conduct, hence the reference to dismissal. This remains the policy of the police service in England and Wales to date and officers or staff who were found to be members of the BNP would be dealt under Regulation 6 of the Police (Amendment) Regulations 2003 and with Paragraph 12 of the Police Code of Conduct.

The ACPO document "The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) decision to ban Police Officers and Staff from being Members of the British National Party (BNP)" has previously been made available though a previous FOI request to the Home Office.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/freedom-of-information/released-information/foi-archive-crime/561-association-of-chief-police?version=1>