

Freedom of Information – Response – 26705

I would like to know how many complaints have been made against councillors in the following time periods: 1. since 1 May 2025 and 2. for the years 2023,2024 and 2025 individually.

Statistics relating to councillor complaints are reported to the Council's Audit Committee on an annual basis. Please note this information is recorded in financial years rather than calendar years.

1. Suffolk County Council can confirm that it holds this information, however, the information you have requested under Q1 is adjudged by the Council to be exempt from disclosure under section 22 (information intended for future publication) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and is, therefore, being withheld.

Section 22 states that, in order to be exempt, information must be held with the intention of publication at the time the request was made. The data for 2025/26 will be considered by Audit Committee at its meeting on 17 June 2026. Papers for this meeting will be published on the Council's Committee Agendas, Reports and Minutes database no later than 5 working days before the meeting and will be available on the following webpage - [Committee Documents home page](#)

Having said that, in seeking to rely upon this exemption, the Council is required to undertake a 'public interest test' - to weigh competing interests and to determine whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

With respects of disclosing this information in this instance, the following has been taken into account:

Factors in favour of disclosure:

- Facilitate openness and transparency in Suffolk County Council's affairs.
- Further understanding of, and participation in, the debate of issues of the day.

Factors in favour of withholding:

- There is a pre-existing commitment to publish this information;
- The timescale for the publication of this information is not unreasonable;
- Releasing the information before it has been analysed and prepared would lead to inaccurate assumptions by the public;
- For a complete picture, additional resources would be required to improve the accuracy and representativeness ahead of the planned date.

It is accepted, under the legislation, that there is a presumption that information will be disclosed. However, in consideration of the circumstances of this request, it is

determined (at this time) that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in its disclosure for the reasons identified above.

Accordingly, it is considered reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the scheduled time.

2. Links to papers for the relevant Audit Committee meetings are provided below:

2024/25:

- [Audit Committee, 18 June 2025](#) (Agenda item 9)

2023/24:

- [Audit Committee, 11 June 2024](#) (Agenda item 11)

2022/23: -

- [Audit Committee, 5 June 2023](#) (Agenda item 11)

2021/22:

- [Audit Committee, 9 March 2022](#) (Agenda item 9)

I would also like those numbers broken down further by:

- *How many complaints were made against members by their political grouping*
- *How many complaints were related to social media use*

Please refer to the published information above.