

Freedom of Information Request – Response - 27837

1. How much has your local authority has spent removing unauthorised flags that have been erected on lamp posts and other street furniture in the year August 1st, 2025-August 1st, 2026 and if known, how many flags were removed.

Spend by SCC = £0.00

Number of flags removed = 14

If data is not available for this date range, can you give data for the last twelve months held and specify the date range.

The date range is as requested.

2. How much has your local authority spent on erecting Union Jack or St Georges flags from August 1st, 2025- August 1st, 2026 and if known, how many.

If data is not available for this date range, can you give data for the last twelve months and specify the date range.

This information is not recorded.

3. How many complaints has your local authority received about unauthorised flags being erected on lamp posts and other street furniture in the year August 1st, 2025-August 1st, 2026 and since August 1st, 2026.

If data is not available for this date range, can you give data for the last twelve months and specify the date range.

Suffolk County Council (SCC) can confirm that this information is held however it is being withheld under s.12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) as the cost of complying would exceed the appropriate limit.

The information you have requested is not recorded in a way that would enable complaints that relate specifically to unauthorised flags on lamp posts and other street furniture to be identified through a report or search. The complaint reason is very specific and not a category that SCC routinely records or reports on.

To determine whether a complaint related to the placing of unauthorised flags on street furniture would require a manual review of each complaint record. During the period specified, the Council received 293 complaints that are most likely to hold information that falls within the scope of your request. Based on an estimated review time of approximately five minutes per case to locate, retrieve and examine the information, it would take approximately 24 hours and 25 minutes to complete the task.

As this exceeds the appropriate limit of 18 hours SCC is not obliged to comply with this part of the request under section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

4. If accessible within the cost limit, please also provide the same data for questions 1, 2 and 3 for the prior year in the same format.

(For instance, if providing data in the format August 1st 2025 - August 1st 2026, please also include August 1st 2024 - August 1st 2025.)

No data recorded

5. If there is another local authority that might also hold the same data (for instance, a higher or lower tier local authority - a county council or a district council), please name it.

SCC does not hold this data.

Under the UK Freedom of Information Act 2000, public authorities are required to provide recorded information that they already hold, rather than create new information or formulate answers to questions. If a request is framed as a question, the organisation's obligation is to consider whether it holds recorded information that addresses the subject of the request and disclose that information where appropriate. Therefore, there is generally no requirement to provide explanations, opinions, interpretations, or bespoke responses. Instead, the authority can fulfil its duty by providing the relevant data, documents, records, reports, or other recorded information it holds