



Information Access Team – Freedom of Information - Police & Crime Data Available in the Public Domain

This guidance sets out a range of readily available sources of data which offer insight into policing performance in Sussex. If you are thinking of making a Freedom of Information request, please consider these resources and whether one or more of them meets your needs.

By encouraging this type of 'self-service', Sussex Police's Freedom of Information (FOI) team will be able to offer a timelier service to those requests which are complex or require the collation of larger sets of data.

Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) permits public bodies to exempt requests for information which is already reasonably accessible by other means. If you submit a request for information which is readily available, we may refuse it and redirect you to one of these sources. If the information you want is already available in the Publication Scheme on our website, we may automatically refuse your request under section 21(3) of the FOIA.

Police.uk [Home](https://www.police.uk) | [Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](https://www.police.uk)

Police.uk is the national website for policing in England, Wales & Northern Ireland.

There are two main areas of the site where the public can access data on policing and crime, the focus for FOI will be on 'Performance'.

- The 'Performance' section provides data and statistics related to police performance and covers the following areas:
 - **'Compare Your Area'** compares local crime rates in areas of Sussex with similar areas elsewhere in the UK and with other areas within the Force. The user identified their policing area by entering a postcode or address within the Home page. The page also allows users to see changes in crime rates over a rolling 3 year period. 'Compare Your Area' allow users to see data as a graph or with a data table and also allows users to download raw data. Users can assess all crime or filter data by crime type.
 - **'Case Length'** provides details of how quickly criminal cases are dealt with. Please note that data only goes up to Q3 of 2019 when it was suspended to allow the Ministry of Justice to develop and new set of performance statistics.

- **‘Stop and Search’** provides data on the number of stop searches by outcome by month over a 6 month period. The outcomes are presented under 8 categories from Arrest to No Further Action. There is detailed data on ethnicity, presented as number of searches per 1,000 resident population broken down by ethnic group, therefore offering an analysis of disproportionality. There is also data on subject age, time of day and the object of the search (what officers suspected they would find). Again, the raw data is downloadable.
 - **‘Police Workforce Diversity’** offers details of:
 - Police officer ethnicity in Sussex Police
 - Proportion of officers from BME¹ groups across Forces in England and Wales (compares Sussex to all other Forces)
 - Proportion of officers from BME groups by rank in Sussex Police
 - Gender representation by rank in Sussex Police
 - Proportion of workforce from BME groups by worker type in Sussex Police
 - Proportion of workforce by gender, by worker type in Sussex Police
 - **‘Police Financial Reserves’** details reserves held for capital investment from 2011-2018. Since 2018, details of reserves have been published on the PCC website. [SPCC - What we spend & how we spend it \(sussex-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://sussex-pcc.gov.uk/SPCC-What-we-spend-&how-we-spend-it).
 - **‘999 Performance Data’** shows data on 999 call answering times for Sussex Police including comparisons with the performance of other Forces. It breaks data down into calls answered in under 10 seconds, 10-60 seconds and over 60 seconds. Again, the data file is downloadable.
- The ‘Policing In the UK’ section offers more general advice on policing information and services in the UK.

His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services

HMICFRS has developed a Digital Crime and Performance Pack (DCPP) which brings together published data about police performance in order to improve transparency and accountability. The DCPP shows the performance of all Forces in England and Wales against the measures set out in the Beating Crime Plan. The pack shows number of offences, trends, crimes per head of population and comparison with other Forces.

¹ Sussex Police recognises that the use of the term Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) is no longer in common use, can cause offence and can mask disparities between different ethnic groups and create misleading interpretations of data. However, as police.uk classify the data accordingly to this terminology, the classification title is retained here to maximise ease of use on the website.

Data is available from April 2017 to present.

The DCPD currently covers:

- Homicide
- Serious Violence (firearms, knife crime, violence with injury, NHS sharps injury admission (all ages), NHS sharps injury admission (under 25s))
- Neighbourhood Crime (robbery, theft from the person, vehicle crime, residential burglary)

Home Office

The Home Office publishes numerous open data tables including:

- Police Recorded Crime Open Data Table (by Police area, March 2013 onwards)
- Police Recorded Crime Tables for other time periods from 2003.
- Police Recorded Crime by Community Safety Partnership Area (i.e. broken down by district/ borough/ unitary authority)
- Crime Outcomes, listed by Home Office outcome code (1-9 are deemed 'solved', some Forces also include outcome 22). Tables are published at 6-12 month intervals, the most recent is for April-September 2023

Criminal Justice System Delivery Data Dashboard

[Criminal justice system overview - CJS Dashboard](#)

The CJS dashboard provides information on the timeliness of investigations and court proceedings and can be filtered by Force area. Data is available for All Crime or specifically Adult Rape and can be presented as quarterly or rolling annual data.

Subject headings:

- Improving Timeliness
 - o Crime to police decision
 - o Police referral to CPS to prosecution
 - o Charge to case completion in court
- Increasing Victim Engagement, investigations, prosecutions and court cases closed due to lack of victim support.
- Improving Quality of Justice, positive outcomes rates for police investigations and prosecutions.

Sussex Police Website

The Force's own website contains hyperlinks to some of the databases already mentioned above, notably police.uk. This material is not duplicated here.

The Force's website offers a Publication Scheme in which all Force Policies are published together with records of misconduct hearings, recommendations made to the Force by the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) and bespoke reports prepared in response to previous FOI requests. If you are considering making an FOI application, please check the search function in our Publication Scheme to see if the information you want has already been published. [Published items | Sussex Police](#) . If you ask for information we have already published, we may refuse your request and redirect you to the Publication Scheme.

There are two locally maintained documents on the Sussex Police website addition to the Publication Scheme which may be of use to those wanting data on policing.

- **'Concluded Sexual Misconduct Investigations'**: this page contains data relating to allegations of sexual misconduct involving police officers, staff and volunteers. The report covers the last 5 years and contains data on offence type, outcomes/ sanctions and the rank and gender of the officer or staff member investigated. [Concluded sexual misconduct investigations | Sussex Police](#)
- **'Misconduct Outcomes'**: this page contains outcomes of misconduct hearings over the past 5 years, including a summary of the conduct proven and the sanction. The full report of any of the cases listed can be provided upon request. These requests should be directed to our Professional Standards Dept, there is a hyperlink on the webpage. [Misconduct outcomes | Sussex Police](#)
<https://www.sussex.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/sussex/misconduct/misconduct-hearings---previous-outcomes.pdf>
- **'Use of Force'**: this page details the number of incidents in which force was used in a rolling year, how many times force was used against people under 18 and ethnic disproportionality. The report offers a great deal of detail including:
 - o Reason for force
 - o Subject behaviour and impact factors
 - o Tactic(s) used
 - o Incident outcome

These details are further broken down by geographical area, age and subject ethnicity. [Use of Force incidents, statistics and data | Sussex Police](#)