

c/o PO BOX 481
Fareham
Hampshire
PO14 9FS

Tel: 02380 478922

Email: npcc.foi.request@npfdu.police.uk

15/04/2026

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NUMBER: 2828/2026

Thank you for your request for information regarding police powers regarding members of the public photographing in public places, which has now been considered.

Applicant Question:

Can you please advise the powers that the police have when coming across members of the public taking photographs in public places, with or without members of the public being included in the photographs.

The links on "Guidance/position on photography To National Police Chiefs' Council by GB6604 3 July 2015" do not work.

NPCC Response:

The NPCC does hold information that answers your request.

I have extracted the relevant information below from the NPCC Auditors Social Media Bloggers Guidelines V3.

'2 ACPO Guidance for Photographers 2010

2.1 Auditors/Bloggers have referred to the ACPO Guidance for Photographers 2010 document during some of their recordings. For the purposes of this guidance document, the following points taken from the ACPO guidance for Photographers 2010 will continue to act as the guiding principles.

- *There are no powers prohibiting the taking of photographs, film or digital images in a public place. Therefore, members of the public and press should not be prevented from doing so.*
- *We need cooperation with the media and amateur photographers. They play a vital role as their images help us identify criminals.*
- *We must acknowledge that citizen journalism is a feature of modern life and police officers are now photographed and filmed more than ever.*
- *Unnecessarily restricting photography, whether for the casual tourist or professional is unacceptable and it undermines public confidence in the police service.*
- *Once an image has been recorded, the police have no power to delete or confiscate it without a court order.*

2.2 The College of Policing also has guidance that can be accessed through the Media Relations APP and the Public Order APP, which Chief Constables and local commanders may wish to use alongside this guidance'

You may wish to submit your request to the College of Policing in relation to their guidance. This can be done via the link below:

[Freedom of information \(FOI\) | College of Policing](#)

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Officer & Decision Maker

www.npcc.police.uk

COMPLAINT RIGHTS

Internal Review

Any request for an internal review will be acknowledged and responded to, based on the specific wording of your initial request only.

We ask that any rationale to request an internal review, does not include any requests for new information and ask that these be submitted by separate email. We will acknowledge as a new request and may aggregate to your initial request in compliance with the legislation.

If you are dissatisfied with the response you have been provided with in compliance with the Freedom of Information legislation, you can lodge a complaint with NPCC to have the decision reviewed within 40 working days of the date of this response.

The handling of your request will be looked at by someone independent of the original decision and a fresh response provided.

It would be helpful, if requesting a review, for you to articulate in detail the reasons you are not satisfied with this reply.

If you would like to request a review, please write or send an email to NPCC Freedom of Information, c/o PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire, PO14 9FS.

Annex A

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the NPCC, when refusing to provide information by way of exemption in question and (c) states why the exemption applies. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a refusal notice to those aspects of your request.

Legislation – Section 16

- (1) It shall be the duty of a public authority to provide advice and assistance, so far as it would be reasonable to expect the authority to do so, to persons who propose to make, or have made, requests for information to it.