

GUIDANCE FOR DOCUMENTARY MAKERS

SUBMITTING A FILMING REQUEST



Introduction

North Yorkshire Police is frequently approached by documentary-makers requesting access to film officers and staff at work. North Yorkshire Police values openness, and recognises the role of documentaries in showing the public the realities of policing in action. However we need to balance this against the requirement for confidentiality, possible disruption to operations arising from filming, and our capacity as an organisation to provide the necessary support, to ensure filming is carried out appropriately, legally and safely.

In order to ensure that documentary requests are considered thoroughly and fairly, we have developed a process for considering requests. This document provides guidance on how to submit a filming request for our consideration.

How to make a request

North Yorkshire Police will only consider filming requests that are submitted via the online Documentary Request form. This is available at: <http://www.northyorkshire.police.uk/filming>

You may contact the Corporate Communications team for an exploratory conversation about your documentary, but you will still need to complete the form for your request to be considered.

We will normally give a decision on requests submitted via the online form within ten working days.

Completing the request form

Most of the form is simple factual information. However a key part of the form is the description of your filming request. In answering this section, you may find the following pointers helpful:

- Give an overview of the programme and what it the overall thrust of it, so we understand what your programme is about, and who it is for
- Help us to assess what our time commitment would be, and the possible impact on operations, by explaining:
 - Who you would like to film (departments, teams, individuals)
 - Your approach to filming and how you would work with the Force
 - How you anticipate carrying out the filming, how many people would be involved and how much time you would expect to spend in-Force. For example, from a police perspective, there is a significant difference between supporting an embedded film crew following officers for several weeks, and a series of short face-to-face interviews with individual officers/staff.

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- We set a high priority on requests that meet our ethos and priorities as a service. That means we are most interested in supporting programmes that:
 - Represent the reality of policing in North Yorkshire (as distinct from other counties)
 - Are considered, rather than sensational, in tone
 - Support a holistic and nuanced public understanding of the role of the police, and the real-life issues that officers and staff face
 - Are deliverable – ie it is possible to tell an effective and engaging story without compromising victims, investigations or court proceedings
 - Are practical in the North Yorkshire context (ie we are a low-crime largely rural service, so some incidents that occur frequently in high-population urban areas may occur infrequently in our Force area. You should take this into account in your filming schedule).

In particular we are interested in programmes that can help the public to understand our activity in operational areas of particular importance in North Yorkshire, such as:

- Protecting vulnerable people
- Rural crime and policing rural communities
- Safer roads

Donation

Even where the level of filming is “light”, it still requires a level of time commitment from police officers and staff, which is why we request a donation from documentary-makers who are featuring North Yorkshire Police in their programmes.

We do not normally seek full cost recovery for officer/staff time.

Instead we request a standard donation of £1k per episode in which we are involved, with a minimum donation of £1k. However, we may need to discuss this rate with you if we believe the time requirement at our end is particularly high.

The donation request does NOT apply to Crimewatch or other programmes whose primary purpose is to help the police to locate offenders by issuing public appeals.

North Yorkshire Police does not make decisions about documentary access on the basis of the amount of the donation we will receive.

All donations resulting from filming requests go to fund crime prevention activities at North Yorkshire Police.

Questions

If you are a documentary-maker and wish to have an informal discussion about your filming request, please contact the Corporate Communications Team on 01609 78 99 59 or email us on corporatecommunications@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

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