



Sussex Police

**A GUIDE
TO BRITISH
POLICING**

The Law in the UK

Respect for the law is important in the UK, it must be obeyed and applies to everyone. There are consequences if you break the law, you could receive a fine or prison sentence.

Cases are decided by judges in a court and both sides are treated fairly. Every person can be represented by a lawyer.

There are two types of law in the UK:

- **Civil Law** - which settles disputes between people.
- **Criminal Law** - which covers crime and punishment.

Both govern what you can and cannot do in the UK.

There are some specific laws that vary between England, Wales, and Scotland.



Modern policing in Britain

Policing in Britain is based upon principles set nearly 200 years ago. These define an ethical approach to policing communities based on the consent of residents.

These principles are still alive among police forces today.

The police and our duties

Police exist to protect the public, their rights and the law. We are there to help and assist you and you should not be afraid to approach us. You can contact us if you are the victim of a crime, see a crime happening, or for general assistance.

Our police officers have different roles, but you are most likely to come across Neighbourhood, Response or Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). PCSOs are staff not officers and they provide a visible presence for policing within communities.



Contact Us

How to contact Sussex Police.

Call 999 if:

- a serious offence is in progress or has just been committed
- someone is in immediate danger or harm
- property is in danger of being damaged
- a serious disruption to the public is likely

999 is the number you dial in the UK if you need the police, fire or ambulance service.

Call 101 if:

- You are facing a less urgent situation, for example if property has been damaged or if you have information to give us about a crime.

Visit our website

www.sussex.police.uk to report a range of non emergency crimes, including anti-social behaviour, fraud and sexual assault.

You can also find advice on a wide range of subjects.

Social media

You can send us a message through social media, search 'Sussex Police' on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

Police stations

We have police stations located around the county. If you would like to visit us in person, visit our website to find your closest station and its opening hours.



Feedback

We are committed to providing outstanding services. If you have feedback about the service you have received or would like to make a complaint please visit our website.

Complaints about police services in the UK can be made directly to the relevant police force or, for the most serious cases, are overseen by the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC). The IOPC is responsible for overseeing the system for handling complaints made against police forces in England and Wales, or the Police Investigations & Review Commissioner (PIRC) in Scotland. The role of these latter institutions is to impartially, and independent of the police, investigate conduct and behaviour.



Report online at www.sussex.police.uk or call **101**.
In an emergency always call **999**.

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