

Suffolk Police in top 100 in Workplace Equality Index

Suffolk Police has once again been ranked in Britain's top 100 employers for lesbian, gay and bisexual staff

The Workplace Equality Index, developed together by Stonewall, the gay equality charity, has this year ranked Suffolk Constabulary in 49th place in its index of the Top 100 Employers. Although this is a fall of 4 places on the 2011 placing it is still a rise of 113 places since its first submission to the index in 2008.

Now in its eighth year, the Workplace Equality Index was developed by Stonewall to challenge Britain's leading employers to create an inclusive working environment for lesbian, gay and bisexual employees.

The index is free to enter and is the definitive national benchmark for employers to measure their own performance in relation to other agencies in addressing the needs of lesbians, gay men and bisexuals in the wider community and to track workplace culture for gay, lesbian and bisexual employees.

Organisations complete a benchmarking survey. Submissions are assessed against 25 questions across eight criteria; ranging from the implementation of effective equality policies and practical demonstration of other good practice, including: training, monitoring and procurement, to how they engage with lesbian and gay staff, customers and service users.

For 2012, the Workplace Equality Index criteria were fully revised and updated to reflect evolving good practice and legislation, such as the provisions of the Equality Act 2010.

Stonewall Chief Executive Ben Summerskill said: "Competition was fiercer than ever to secure a place on the 2012 Top Employers List with 363 organisations taking part from 12 different sectors, including Government, Local Government, Banking and Finance, Health and Social Care, Criminal Justice, Housing and Education."

Chief Constable Simon Ash said: "I am delighted with the Constabulary listing in the top 100 in Stonewall's Diversity Index. The principles of diversity, inclusion and equality must sit at the heart of any truly modern and forward thinking organisation.

"Rising in the rankings so significantly is a fantastic achievement and a reflection of our commitment to being a supportive employer that values its lesbian, gay and bisexual employees. We aim to create an inclusive working environment for all our officers and staff, and to provide an inclusive service for all people of Suffolk, regardless of their sexual orientation."

Mr Ash continued: "Suffolk Constabulary is committed to ensuring that its

performance in all strands of workplace diversity continues to improve. The Constabulary works towards a three year plan outlined in our Single Equality Scheme, with diversity champions and action plans in place to improve our performance as an employer, and to ensure our officers and staff respect and value the wealth of diversity in our communities.”

More information on the work of Stonewall can be found on their website:
www.stonewall.org.uk