



**SUFFOLK
CONSTABULARY**
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Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 001104-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 23rd March 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"Can you tell me how many applications to remove indefinite notification requirements of a sex offender this force has received from 01/09/2012 to 20/03/2018 (both dates inclusive)? Please can you break this down into the following periods:*
 - *2012 (01/09/12 - 31/12/12)*
 - *2013 calendar year*
 - *2014 calendar year*
 - *2015 calendar year*
 - *2016 calendar year*
 - *2017 calendar year*
 - *2018 (01/01/18 - 23/3/18)*

2. *How many of these applications were approved? Please could you break this information down into calendar years.*

3. *How many of the approved applications were from women sex offenders?*

4. *In the case of each approved application, please indicate the offence that the offender committed.*

5. *Out of the approved applications, please can you specify the number of cases that involved a victim under the age of 16.*

6. *Has any offender who successfully applied for indefinite notification requirements to be removed, to your knowledge subsequently gone on to be convicted of a sexual offence?*

7. *Where an offender has received a subsequent conviction, please can you specify:*
 - *The offence that the offender was originally given indefinite notification requirements for.*
 - *The nature of the subsequent offence that they were convicted of.*



Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 23rd March 2018

Suffolk Constabulary has considered your request for information and the response is below.

In relation to your request for information and in accordance with Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), this response serves as a formal notification of refusal for your request. Suffolk Constabulary does not hold, for the purposes of FOIA, the information you require in a retrievable format.

It is estimated that to attempt to retrieve all of the information you require would take a considerable amount of retrieval time, which would exceed 18 hours. This would exceed the appropriate limit for dealing with Freedom of Information requests, in terms of costs and therefore Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 applies.

We are required to complete a half yearly return to the Home Office with the total number of applications to remove indefinite notification requirements of a sex offender, and whether those applications were approved. As such, we actively record the number of applications and approvals; however we do not separately record the name and age of those offenders and subsequently their offences, thus being unable to answer Question 4 and 5 of your request.

To establish the ages and the offences of those offenders would either require a manual search through all registered sex offenders recorded and held within our archive system, however this would be an extremely difficult task as the number of sex offenders is a dynamic figure and will continually change. Taking into account that as of January 2018 alone we had 816 Registered Sex Offenders at liberty, this would be a very time consuming task.

Alternatively, to attempt to retrieve this information would involve contacting all the relevant officers to re-submit the data again to our Protecting Vulnerable People (PVP) unit along with the names and details of the individual. This is then based on the officers in question still holding these details as the request dates back to 2012, there may be instances where an individual has since been removed from the register and therefore their details would have been archived. The Officers could potentially be looking after <100 or so RSO's at a time, and therefore retrieving this information would be very time consuming and relies on the officers still holding this information. As a final point, we must also take into account that there would have been officer and staff moves within the constabulary during this time frame.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states that a Public Authority is not obliged to: *"...comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit."* The Freedom of Information (Appropriate



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Limit and Fees) Regulations, defines the 'appropriate limit' for the Suffolk Constabulary as £450 and specifies that this sum equates to 18 hours work at a standard rate of £25 per hour.

In accordance with Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter serves as a refusal notice for this part of your request.

By requesting *all* information your request is too broad to be complied with within the £450 limit imposed on Freedom of Information requests.

Although excess cost removes the Force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

1. The total number of applications received is as follows:

2012 / 2013 (1st September 2012 – 31st December 2013) = 8
2014 = 2
2015 = 9
2016 = 10
2017 = 8
2018 = 2

2. The number of applications approved is as follows:

2012 / 2013 (1st September 2012 – 31st December 2013) = 6
2014 = 0
2015 = 6
2016 = 6
2017 = 9
2018 = 2

A full copy of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) can be viewed on the 'Office of Public Sector Information' web-site;
<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/>



Suffolk Constabulary is not responsible for the content, or the reliability, of the website referenced. The Constabulary cannot guarantee that this link will work all of the time, and we have no control over the availability of the linked pages.



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Your Right to Request a Review of Decisions Made Under the Terms of the
Freedom of Information Act (2000).

If you are unhappy with how your request has been handled, or if you think the decision is incorrect, you have the right to ask Suffolk Constabulary to review their decision.

Ask Suffolk Constabulary to look at the decision again.

If you are dissatisfied with the decision made by Suffolk Constabulary under the Freedom of Information Act (2000), regarding access to information, you must notify Suffolk Constabulary that you are requesting a review within 20 days of the date of its response to your Freedom of Information request. Requests for a review should be made in writing and addressed to:

*Freedom of Information Decision Maker
Information Management Department
Suffolk Constabulary
Police Headquarters
Martlesham Heath
Ipswich
Suffolk
IP5 3QS
OR
Email: information@suffolk.pnn.police.uk*

In all possible circumstances Suffolk Constabulary will aim to respond to your request for us to look at our decision again within 20 working days of receipt of your request for an internal review.

The Information Commissioner.

After lodging a request for a review with Suffolk Constabulary, if you are still dissatisfied with the decision, you can apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

For information on how to make application to the Information Commissioner please visit their website at www.ico.org.uk or contact them at the address shown below:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545 700