



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 001750-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 17 May 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

"I am an academic researching the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (the DVDS, often known as 'Clare's Law'). I wondered if you could help me with the following requests for information, please.

- 1. Of the first 20 recipients of a disclosure under the DVDS in your force area, counting from the point when the DVDS went into national operation as a policing policy on 8th March 2014, how many of those 20 recipients have since reported, or have been reported, being the victims of some form of domestic abuse perpetrated by the person about whom they requested or were given information about under the DVDS?*
- 2. Of the first 20 recipients of a disclosure under the DVDS in your force area, counting from the point when the DVDS went into national operation as a policing policy on 8th March 2014, how many of those 20 recipients have since reported, or have been reported, being the victims of some form of domestic abuse perpetrated by any person other than the person about whom they requested or were given information about under the DVDS?"*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 18 May 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.

Gathering information relating to question 2 would take a significant amount of retrieval time. We would be required to manually review each person on the top 20 list to establish whether they were a complainant for any other crime recorded in Suffolk since the date they received their



disclosure. For occasions where the individual at risk has a common surname, no date of birth or have changed their name / details over the time period of this process, the information will be extremely complex to extract. We will need to cross reference data with four separate systems, including two crime systems, call data and child/adult protection referrals in order to establish whether there are any changes to those persons personal details. This data will also only be relevant for the Suffolk area as we do not hold data for other Constabularies.

As this data is not stored in one location for each person, we would need to cross reference with the systems mentioned above and potentially other data files in order to establish whether the individual has had any further domestic violence instances with other individuals in Suffolk. This would be an exceptionally difficult and complex task and one that would undoubtedly exceed the time permitted for FOI requests.

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 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.

Of the first 20 recipients of disclosure under the DVDS, 7 individuals had at least one further reported incident in Suffolk between those two parties.

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.



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