

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 000164-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 11 January 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

"I was hoping to acquire some information on laws regarding a certain aspect of vehicle modification. I have searched the internet as well as multiple police based websites and cannot find a definitive answer on any of these. My question involves the tinting of tail-lights on the back of the vehicle:

- 1. Is it legal to tint tail lights of a car?*
- 2. Is there a maximum tint amount/%, if so what is this level and how can it be measured?*
- 3. If not a maximum tint "level" how far away must the lights be visible from when tinted?*
- 4. Is there a good way to ensure that my lights (post-tinted) are legal before driving on the road?"*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 31 January 2019

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

1. It is not specified as illegal to tint tail lights, each vehicle is judged on a case by case basis and the general rule is that provided the vehicle is adequately able to signal any intention clearly, so other road users can see if the vehicle is turning or breaking, then this would be acceptable.
2. As above, there is no specific standard so no measurements
3. As above, a driver behind must be able to see a vehicle is turning or breaking, if the officer feels this is not possible within a reasonable distance, then they may take further action, this can be via the vehicle defect rectification scheme or in the event of a dispute, the court would ultimately decide.
4. This is matter for interpretation so a definitive answer cannot be given

The professional advice is that it would always be preferable to leave the lights as they were fitted, but if they are modified, to ensure that other road users will have no problems seeing a turn or stop signal from a distance.



Should you have any further queries concerning this request, please contact Clair Pack, FOI Decision Maker, quoting the reference number shown above.

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 40 working 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