



Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 001630-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 4 May 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"Why - apart from box-filling - was/is my date of birth was required before the incident *****could (would?) be processed as my age has no relevance to the crime committed unless the crime is believed to be age-related?"*
2. *Also, for exactly what use can be made of including my date of birth and exactly what use will be made of including my date of birth?"*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 24 May 2018

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

Dates of birth are required from witnesses (this includes a reporting person) for the following reasons:

- If there is a trial because the offender is prosecuted, checks are carried out on all witnesses. This is required because a previous conviction, for example a dishonesty offence, may undermine the Crown's case and we would be under an obligation to disclose this. More information: <https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/disclosure-previous-convictions-prosecution-witnesses>
- If a witness is under 18 years old they would require the support of an appropriate adult
- Certain offences are age related.
- Age can help us identify those who are vulnerable and may need extra support from us.
- The information, along with other factors, is used to help us analyse crime patterns and take action to prevent crime. For example if we identify that a particular group is at risk, we could use that information to provide targeted advice. We may also be required to submit statistical data to the Home Office.

Generally we would not refuse to record a crime, just because the reporting person refused to give us their date of birth. However, should an offender be identified and a prosecution sought we would require that information. If we were unable to positively identify a witness it may undermine the case.

You can read more about crime recording via the following link:



<https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmicfrs/our-work/article/crime-data-integrity/crime-recording-process/>

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