



**SUFFOLK
CONSTABULARY**
Taking pride in keeping Suffolk safe

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 003633-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 8 October 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

“Following the introduction of an active risk management system and individual risk management plans for registered sex offenders under freedom of information The Safeguarding Alliance would like to know .

- 1. How many home visits were carried out for each “high risk” offender in the last year?*
- 2. How many high-risk offenders were re assessed and re-evaluated as low risk in the last year?*
- 3. How many of offenders were consistently assessed as low risk and no longer receive home visits?*
- 4. How many registered sex offenders have failed to make annual contact with police stations?*
- 5. How long does it take for a registered sex offender to be considered as “missing” from the constabulary area?*
- 6. How many registered sex offenders are missing from the constabulary area over the last three years?”*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 10 October 2019

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

With regards to questions 2, 4 and 5, the Constabulary is unable to provide any accurate figures to answer these questions as the information is not held in a manner that would allow us to determine the data for a period of time.

Specifically concerning question 2, the risk level of an individual will be updated should a change occur, however there is no specific datasets maintained in terms of total number of offenders whose levels change.

With regards to question 4, The Constabulary would only be able to confirm the number of RSO's who have failed to comply with their notifications in the last year but this is a total of *all* offences, not just their *annual* notifications.

With regards to question 5, there is no exact answer as it depends on many factors such as risk level and frequency of visits, what enquiries need to be made i.e. address checks connected to



the individual and many other associated factors. We would put them out as 'wanted' when all lines of enquiries to locate them have been exhausted or if the RSO is considered to be high risk. If any offender is not contactable within a two week period a missing or wanted marker will be raised.

In order to determine an exact response to these questions for the time frame, it would require a manual review of all active and archived records. This would amount to hundreds of records and would be well in excess of the 18 hours permitted under FOI legislation.

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.

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.

On average the Constabulary visit high risk offenders once every 3 months although this will be assessed on a case by case basis depending on circumstances or if he/she has any investigations or enquiries on-going. The total visits made to all high-risk offenders in the last 12 months to the end of August was 443.



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All our low risk offenders are visited once a year minimum. However, we currently have 127 who are managed under 'reactive management' who are no longer routinely visited as a result of their risk assessment.

As of the date the system was interrogated, the Constabulary had two registered sex offenders whose whereabouts were unknown. This total is only valid for the date in question because the information is dynamic and will change as arrests are made or new cases come to light through proactive intelligence led policing or routine visits to registered offenders.

The Constabulary does not keep a running total of offenders who have been wanted over a period of time.

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.



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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 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