



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

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 003980-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 3 November 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *“How many people have been arrested as a result of ‘vigilante’ or ‘paedophile hunter’ groups since 2010? Could these figures also be broken down by year please?”*
2. *How many people have been charged as a result of ‘vigilante’ or ‘paedophile hunter’ groups since 2010? Could these figures also be broken down by year please?*
3. *How many ‘vigilante’ or ‘paedophile hunter’ group members, have been charged as a result of their work and specifically under what offence since 2010?*
4. *The release of any policy or internal briefing or guidance document (or any part thereof) relating to interactions between your police service officers and members of so-called ‘paedophile hunter’ or ‘paedophile vigilante’ groups?”*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 5 November 2019

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

The Constabulary is unable to confirm with any degree of accuracy the number of occasions an individual has been arrested as a result of a vigilante or paedophile hunting group. A freetext search could be completed of the terms ‘vigilante’ and ‘paedophile hunter’, however this returned a small number of results. Previously requested data of this nature, focussing on much smaller timescales and narrower search parameters, allowed the Constabulary to manually review each offence and we found a much higher number of results than we have retrieved from a freetext search.

Consequently, the only means of extracting accurate information would be to manually review all relevant offences recorded from 2010 to date, which would be a mammoth task and well exceed the 18-hour statutory time scale.

FOI Response number 003680-19 is attached for reference, which also includes detail concerning force policy.



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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.

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