



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

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 004172-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 19 November 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"Please, can you provide a list of all employee roles who are employed by your authority and are subject to the provisions as set out in the Official Secrets Acts 1911-1989?"*

This can be provided in any format, however, a spreadsheet detailing each role and a mark as to whether the role requires the role holder to sign a declaration as to their recognition of being bound thus required to comply with the Act(s).

2. *Please provide a disclosure of the format used by your authority which requires the signature of any role holder who is subject to provisions as set out in the Official Secrets Acts 1911-1989 such as an "Official Secrets Acts & Confidentiality Declaration"*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 2 December 2019

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

All Constabulary employees are subject to the official secrets Act, however there is nothing specifically to sign by an individual when they sign their contract.

The contract for Constabulary civilian employees states as follows:

All existing and former employees are expected to observe strict confidentiality in respect of official information and documents. During the course of your employment you may come into possession of confidential information and documentation. Improper disclosure of such information or wrongful retention of documentation may be an offence under certain sections of the Official Secrets Act and breach the conditions of service under which you are employed.

Unauthorised access or use of computer systems or information stored on computer may constitute offences under the Data Protection Act 2018, the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, or the Computer Misuse Act 1990.

Any breach of confidentiality, especially under the above legislation, may result in the summary termination of your employment.



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With respect police officers, they receive the attached Official Secrets Act document with their contract, but as they are Crown Servants, they don't sign the act. There is also a sentence at the end of the Conditions of Service the officers sign that states "Officers leaving the Police Service either through retirement or resignation will be informed that they remain subject to the Official Secrets Act 1989".

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