



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 000324-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 22 January 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

“Please could you confirm that in Suffolk (and in indeed across the whole country if the 'law' applies) if a Traffic Officer stops a motorist for not wearing a seatbelt then (s)he has no discretionary option but has to deal with the matter either by way of an on the spot Fixed Penalty notice or by the motorist agreeing to take the on-line Seatbelt Safety Awareness course ?

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 22 January 2019

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

Police Officers have discretionary powers when dealing with the offence of an individual not wearing a seatbelt. The Police Officer will assess each case on its individual circumstances and deal with it in the most appropriate way; this could be via a verbal warning, traffic offence report (TOR) or in some limited circumstances a fined penalty notice payable on the roadside.

Police Officers do not offer safety awareness courses; this is offered by the Traffic Justice Unit following the submission of a TOR by the Officer.

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