



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 00489-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 1st January, 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"Since the inception of "Clare's Law," please provide the following information:*

The total number of Disclosure Requests by Calendar Year (up to and including 31st January 2019,) by:

*Gender,
Age,
Ethnic Origin.*

For your ease of reference, please provide the details for the "Person At Risk" i.e. the person for whom the enquiry has been made by directly and/or on behalf of.

2. *Since the inception of "Clare's Law," up to and including 31st January 2019, please provide the following information:*

The Gender of the person making the enquiry directly on behalf of the "Person At Risk".

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 4th January, 2019.

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

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.

Specifically in relation to details of age and ethnicity, the Multi Agency Safety Hub (MASH) do not record this information and in order to ascertain this level of detail would require a manual review of each disclosure request for the time frame requested. Considering a search of approximately 2 minutes per record, the Constabulary considers it would take in excess of 18 hours for the 2018 calendar year alone.



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.

1. The following information confirms the number of applications each year, broken down by gender of the subject.

2014: 65 applications – Men: 3, Women: 62
2015: 134 applications – Men: 8, Women: 126
2016: 404 applications – Men: 16, Women: 388
2017: 642 applications – Men: 20, Women: 622
2018: 570 applications – Men: 26, Women: 544
January 2019: 44 applications – Men: 0, Women: 44

2. The following information confirms the number of applications each year broken down by gender of the applicant.

2014: - 3 applications made by men, 62 made by women
2015: - 24 applications made by men, 110 made by women
2016: - 88 applications made by men, 316 made by women
2017: - 43 applications made by men, 599 made by women
2018: - 41 applications made by men, 529 made by women
January 2019: 1 Man, Women: 43



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