

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 001124-21

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 28 March 2021 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *“Please can you tell me how many individuals on the sex offender's register have contacted the police force to inform you of change of name by deed poll since 1 March 2011 to the present day.*

Please provide a figure for each year.

2. *Please can you also tell me how many individuals on the sex offender's register have been arrested for failing to inform the police force about a name change by deed poll within the three days required by law since 1 March 2011. Please provide a figure for each year. If possible, please also tell me how many convictions were secured for this crime, with a figure given for each year.*
3. *How many individuals on the sex offender's register has the force notified HM Passport Office about following a name change? Please provide a figure for each year since 1 March 2011.”*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 29 March 2021

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

Registered Sex Offenders (RSOs) whom have failed to notify the Constabulary of a change in name, is recorded as a ‘breach of notification order’. This will include a variety of breaches and not just failing to notify a name change. Each of these offences would need to be manually reviewed to extract the information for this part of the request. There are hundreds of breaches recorded in any one year and it would take well in excess of 18 hours to extract the information in relation to this part of the request.

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.

1. Between the date requested, the Constabulary has recorded a total of 72 notifications of a change of name, 62 relate to active offenders and 10 are now archived. The breakdown (for all 72) is as follows:

2011 - 6
2012 - 6
2013 - 8
2014 - 1
2015 - 8
2016 - 4
2017 - 6
2018 - 11
2019 - 11
2020 - 9
2021 - 2

These figures do not include any RSO's that have since left Suffolk and their records transferred to other Forces to manage. Additionally, this number is for ALL name changes and not just Deed Poll changes as some offenders tell us about alias names they use (for a variety of reasons) but do not officially change their names by Deed Poll.



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3. The onus is on the offender to notify the passport office and indeed all other relevant agencies that they have changed their name - not the police.

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