

**Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 001138-21**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 29 March 2021 in which you sought access to the following information:

*“For the number of 'right to ask' requests approved by your force:*

*Would it please be possible to tell me how many days the longest and second longest request took for each of the requested years (i.e. 2018; 2019 and 2020).*

*Would it also be possible to please breakdown all the requested information for the calendar year 2020 per month.”*

**Response to your Request**

The response provided below is correct as of 7 April 2021

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

Also known as Clare’s Law, the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme gives people the right to make an application to the police if there are any concerns about their partner’s history or are worried that someone may be in a relationship with a previously abusive partner.

Further information can be found on the Constabulary’s website:

<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/advice/assault-abuse-threats/domestic-abuse>

The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme policy can be found via the following link:

<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/services/freedom-information/policies-procedures-and-equality>

During the 2018-2020 calendar years, the longest and second longest timeframes for a disclosure after a right to ask (RTA) requests, is provided below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Longest</b>	<b>Second Longest</b>
2018	238	169
2019	315	100
2020	139	109

The National DVDS Guidance states “the police will aim to complete the enquiry within 35 days but there may be extenuating circumstances that increase this timescale.” Once it has been

established that disclosure does fit under the criteria of the scheme and a disclosure will be made, timescales will be dependent on the complexities and nature of the information being considered. Extenuating circumstances include, but are not limited to:

- Disclosure can initially be declined by the person at risk. Should further incidents occur or the person at risk change their mind about receiving disclosure; it is often then re-opened and delivered
- Establishing safe contact with the person at risk can take some time
- Availability of the person at risk to receive the disclosure
- Workloads of both the Police and partner agencies

For the 2020 calendar year, the total number of RTA requests and disclosures made, is as follows by month:

<b>2020</b>	<b>RTA Requests</b>	<b>Disclosures</b>
January	5	4
February	10	3
March	12	6
April	9	4
May	13	5
June	6	2
July	11	6
August	11	5
September	11	6
October	15	3
November	9	4
December	8	3

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](mailto: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](http://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