



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

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 002148-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 10 June 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

"I am hoping to gain responses to the following in relation to Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual victims of intimate partner violence:

- 1. Does your organisation provide a specific LGB domestic abuse service/support for victims of intimate partner violence that identify as being non heterosexual? (for example, if your organisation utilises independent domestic violence advisors, do you provide a specific non heterosexual IDVA) If yes, upon what basis was the decision made to provide sexual orientation specific victim support?*
- 2. Do you collect victim's feedback (for example, the victim satisfaction survey) specifically from the LGB victim groups of intimate partner violence?*
- 3. Is your response (safeguarding, vulnerability assessment etc) different at any stage for non-heterosexual victims of intimate partner violence from heterosexual victims?*
- 4. Have you done any domestic abuse communication campaigns specific to non-heterosexual victims of intimate Partner Violence?*
- 5. (If obtainable within the 18 hour time frame) could you please inform me of the recorded volume of non-heterosexual victims of intimate partner violence from the past 2 years, compared to heterosexual volumes?*
- 6. Have you been part of any work/research that has looked into whether LGB victims of intimate partner violence require a different policing response to non-heterosexual victims? "*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 19 June 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.

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.

In relation to question 5, sexuality is not recorded within our crime recording system Athena. Some of these offences will fall under a Hate Crime; however there will also be non-heterosexual crimes that are not a hate crime. To retrieve this data, we would be required to read through all domestic crimes, considering that for the 2017/18 financial year there were 6,086 crimes recorded with a domestic indicator, this would way exceed the time restraints to research each crime.

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. Suffolk Constabulary utilises the services of Leeway Domestic Violence & Abuse Services. We signpost to specific non heterosexual support services and advise victims of other support and advice which is available.
2. Leeway does attempt to collect service feedback from all clients who have accessed the service regardless of identification group.
3. The IDVA response is based around individual risks and the associated safety plan. This is based on the needs of the client.



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4. No

5. As above.

6. No

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