



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

**Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 003207-20**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 28 September 2020 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *“How many registered sex offenders reside in your Policing area and what, if any, risk category in which they are placed, i.e. low, medium, high.*
2. *Of these, how many are subject to either a Sexual Harm Prevention Order or a Sexual Offence Prevention Order, breaking that figure down by Order type.*
3. *How many staff do you have monitoring these subjects throughout your policing area?*
4. *How often do those staff members visit the offenders to conduct a review of their IT equipment to look for breaches of their orders?*
5. *How long, in hours, does each visit take from leaving the police station to returning and do they travel alone or in pairs?*
6. *Details of any computer monitoring software used by your Police force to monitor the internet use of sex offenders, specifically, those convicted of a sexual offence and whom have a Sexual Harm Prevention Order or a Sexual Offence Prevention Order.*
7. *Technical details (or a copy) of any information as to how that software works/performs its function(s).*
8. *Details (or the policy/framework) on the implementation and/or roll-out of such software.*
9. *Details (or the policy) on how this software accommodates the legal exemption from monitoring of legally privileged communication or communication which is medically or legally related, and adheres to the ECHR Article 8 rights of the person subject to such monitoring*
10. *Details (including a copy) of any legal guidance or advice supplied to yourselves - if any exists - in relation to the legality of the use of such software in light of the aforementioned Article 8 rights and the legal right of the person being monitored to both legal privilege and medical confidentiality;*
11. *Details (or a copy) of the total costs associated with this software, paid either by the offender or your Police force, from implementation to date.*

12. *Details (or a copy) of when this service began and is due to end.*
13. *Details (or a copy) of any hard or soft costs associated with staff travelling to/from a visit to an offender.*
14. *Details of how many offenders this software service currently applies to and how many new users are projected to be using the software within the next 12-18 months."*

### **Response to your Request**

The response provided below is correct as of 28 September 2020

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

1. Information concerning the number of Registered Sex Offenders (RSOs) managed by Suffolk Constabulary, including the number of Sexual Harm Prevention Orders (SHPO) and Sexual Offence Prevention Orders (SOPO), are published annually on the gov.uk website and is therefore reasonably accessible via other means and intended for future publication.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires that Suffolk Constabulary, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) are to provide you, the applicant, with a notice which:

- a. States that fact
- b. Specifies the exemption(s) in question and
- c. States (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption(s) applies.

The information is exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption(s);

**Section 21(1) – Information reasonably accessible via other means**

**Section 22(1) – Information intended for future publication**

Information relating to the Constabulary's management of RSOs is published via the following links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/multi-agency-public-protection-arrangements-mappa-annual-reports>

MAPPA report 2018/19

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/843415/Suffolk\\_MAPPA\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2018-2019.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/843415/Suffolk_MAPPA_Annual_Report_2018-2019.pdf)



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

MAPPA report 2017/18

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/751366/Suffolk\\_MAPPA\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2017-18.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/751366/Suffolk_MAPPA_Annual_Report_2017-18.pdf)

Section 22 is a qualified, class-based exemption and I am therefore required to produce a Public Interest Test.

### **Public Interest Test**

(When applying a qualified exemption a public authority is required to consider whether 'in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information')

#### Considerations favouring disclosure

When information disclosed relates directly to the efficiency and effectiveness of the Force or its Officers. In this instance to release such statistics would demonstrate greater awareness of the progress being made by the Constabulary, entrusted with a Public Protection remit.

Where disclosure can assist individuals by raising awareness of such issues, which may be of relevance to them. In this instance by providing the data requested, we could provide up to date statistics useful for Public debate and the decisions of individuals.

In certain cases, providing this information could assist in research that could benefit the community as a whole, again enabling accurate public awareness and debate.

#### Considerations favouring non-disclosure

To supply statistical data, which has not yet been published, would require a large amount of time to collate the information required, this in turn would detract an individual or individuals from their daily tasks, hindering the efficiency in their posts.

All Forces collate such data to be included in their Annual MAPPA report. The MAPPA report is published to facilitate greater awareness of the progress being made. The range of information contained within the report, and the resources required to bring the information together is immense. Finalisation of this report is only made possible by the diversion of resources in to an annual effort.

The FOIA legally allows members of the Public to request any information held by the Public Authority. In order to supply this information, resources are allocated to locate and retrieve it. The Section 21 and 22 exemptions were specifically laid down by parliament to benefit those authorities that proactively publish information. To constantly produce new and up to date

elements of the currently published information, in order to satisfy an additional need outside of the annual schedule, will render these exemptions less effective and remove the benefits of the proactive publication.

### **Balancing Test**

It is noted that Public Awareness and Debate are key to the FOIA, making Authorities more accountable and providing up to date relevant statistical information, improving knowledge and public understanding of the Force.

However, the MAPPAs report is annually published enabling a full and detailed explanation of how RSOs are monitored. It would not therefore, be proactive of this Constabulary to produce information prior to the publication of the MAPPAs report.

The 2019/20 MAPPAs report is due to be published in October.

2. As above
3. The Constabulary has 14 FTE plus one part time member of staff monitoring the RSOs.
4. Our offenders are visited in line with national guidance. This equates to: very high offenders once a month, high offenders once every 3 months, medium offenders once every 6 months and low offenders once a year. This is only a rough guide though as obviously for various reasons we may need to visit an offender more often.

In terms of IT equipment, it can sometimes depend on the offender's orders but in general terms their devices are checked at almost every visit

5. Constabulary employees always visit the RSOs in pairs however, the time and duration of such visits is not held and will vary depending on individual circumstances.
6. The Constabulary does not have specific software to monitor internet use of RSOs.
7. N/A
8. N/A
9. N/A
10. N/A
11. N/A



12. N/A

13. Costs associated with travel to/from a visit is embedded within the overall petrol costs of the Constabulary's pool vehicles. Such costs are not separated by pool car use and there is no requirement to create such information to answer FOI requests.

14. N/A

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.



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

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