



NORFOLK
CONSTABULARY
Our Priority is You

Norfolk Constabulary

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Dear

Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 000313/16

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk Constabulary on the 20th January 2016 in which you sought access to the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I seek the following pieces of information in relation to the Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme, known as "Sarah's Law".

- 1 The total amount of requests your force has received asking if an individual – with access to children – has a sex offender's record.
- 2 The total amount of individuals who were confirmed as having a sex offender's record - which you revealed to the interested party.
- 3 The total amount of individuals with a sex offender's record that you refused to disclose.
- 4 Of the most recent ten cases (up until the time my request is answered) where you disclosed an offender's record, please state the main/primary offence that caused concern?

I would like questions 1-3 broken down annually from the introduction of the law in April 2011 until the time my request is answered.

Norfolk Constabulary holds information relevant to your request.

Response to your Request

When responding to a request for information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, a public authority is not obliged to provide information if the authority estimates that the cost of the retrieval of the information requested would be in excess of £450 (equivalent to 18 hours work).

The costs criteria relates to a request in its entirety, which means that if we cannot retrieve all of the information requested within the costs limit, we are not obliged to retrieve *any* of the information requested.

The Norfolk Constabulary estimates that to retrieve all the information you have requested would exceed cost in excess of £450.

In order to establish what information is held relevant to your request, we have contacted our Safeguarding and Investigations Command and been advised of the following:

Since the introduction of the Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme, the Constabulary has received 295 requests for information. Of these 295, there have been 67 disclosures made. With regard to question 3, this information has not been collated in any central point therefore it would be necessary to review each of the 221 applications that have been received to see why no disclosure was made. In some cases this may take just 5 minutes but in others it could take longer. Based on just 5 minutes each this would exceed the appropriate limit for dealing with a Freedom of Information request, in terms of costs, and therefore Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act applies.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 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 2004, defines the ‘appropriate limit’ for the Norfolk 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 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000), this serves as a Refusal Notice for your request.

Advice & Assistance

Although excess cost removes the Constabulary’s obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relevant to your request, which was 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.

The Safeguarding and Investigations Command had already collated some of the data in relation to the remainder of your request and have spent a further 5 hours retrieving data in order to respond to these questions. Please see information provided below:-

Q1

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of applications	36	51	31	35	73	69

Q2

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of disclosures	10	15	14	5	16	7
Registered Sex Offender	4	7	7	2	9	4

Q4

Disclosure made	Offence
Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buggery

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making indecent photograph or pseudo-photograph of children • Possessing an indecent photograph or pseudo-photograph of a child • Indecent assault on male under 16
Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possessing indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs of children with a view to distributing or showing
Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doing an act of cruelty to a child or young person under 16 years [Violent offender]
Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No convictions but arrested for Attempt/Meet or communicate with female child under 16 following sexual grooming – offender 18 or over [No Further Action]
Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exposure • Commit an act outraging public decency by behaving in an indecent manner • Indecent assault on female under 14
Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assault on female by penetration
Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cause/incite female child under 13 engage in sexual activity-offender under 18 - no penetration • Making indecent photograph or pseudo-photograph of children • Possessing an indecent photograph or pseudo-photograph of a child • Sexual activity with female child under 13 - offender aged under 18 - no penetration • Sexual assault of female child under 13
Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual assault of female child under 13 • Sexual assault – intentionally touch female – no penetration
Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual assault of female child under 13
Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual assault of female child under 13