

2nd June 2020

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 001518/20

I write in connection with your request for information received by Norfolk Constabulary on the 4th May 2020 in which you sought access to the following information:

https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/coronavirus-plague-doctor-hellesdon-norfolk-police-a9489781.html

This story records Norfolk police 'said it wanted to speak to the individual to give "words of advice" about how wearing the costume on walks could affect others in the local area.'

Could you please provide details of the legislation under which you are free to constrain individuals' choice of clothing?

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 28th May 2020.

Norfolk Constabulary has considered your request and our response is below.

The Police do not need legislation, or a Police power, to engage with members of the public. The Facebook posts, featuring the person wearing a 'Plague Dr' outfit started to have an impact locally. The Local Beat Manager engaged with the identified person and relayed how it had affected some members of the community.

At no time was the identified person told they could not wear the outfit.

No further police action was taken following the visit.

This response will be published on the Constabulary's web-site under the Freedom of Information pages:-

https://www.norfolk.police.uk/about-us/our-data/disclosure-log

Should you have any further queries concerning this request, please contact Amanda Gibson, 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/

Norfolk 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.

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 Norfolk Constabulary to review their decision.

Ask Norfolk Constabulary to look at the decision again.

If you are dissatisfied with the decision made by Norfolk Constabulary under the Freedom of Information Act (2000), regarding access to information, you must notify Norfolk Constabulary that you are requesting a review within 40 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 Norfolk Constabulary Operations and Communications Centre Jubilee House Falconers Chase Wymondham Norfolk NR18 0WW OR

Email: freedomofinformation@norfolk.pnn.police.uk

In all possible circumstances Norfolk 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 Norfolk 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