

Freedom of Information – Response – 26784

I am submitting the following Freedom of Information Request for information relating to uses of data analytics, predictive analytics, or algorithmic automated systems used for processing, risk assessment, scoring systems or automated decision making within the jurisdiction of your authority. This could include the use of these data systems in order to draw insights from large and integrated datasets, or to influence decisions about resources, funding or service delivery. This could include, but may not be limited to, uses of predictive analytics in children's services, adult social care, health care, housing and homelessness, low-income and debt support, fraud detection, or policing.

- 1) Please can you provide a list of the council's data analytics, predictive analytics, or algorithmic automated systems?*
- 2) Which areas are they used in? (For example, "children's services relating to Child Criminal Exploitation" or "homelessness provision").*
- 3) Which different datasets are used to contribute to this and where does the data come from?*
- 4) Please can you tell me the names of any projects, provisions, or pilots you have at the moment relating to these?*
- 5) The names of companies you have contracts with to supply data analytics, predictive analytics, or algorithmic automated systems.*
- 6) The amount of funding supplied by any companies relating to data analytics.*

Suffolk County Council (SCC) can confirm that we do not hold this information in a single, centralised location. There is no central team responsible for overseeing all data analytics or algorithmic tools across Suffolk County Council.

To identify the information you have requested, we would be required to contact all directorates and service areas and ask each to conduct searches across all their systems and datasets. This would include checks to determine whether relevant information is held, and if so, locating, retrieving and extracting it which would trigger a s.12 exemption.

Under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request if it estimates that the cost of doing so would exceed the appropriate limit.

The ICO's guidance confirms that the appropriate limit is based on the time reasonably expected to be spent on four activities:

- determining whether the information is held,
- locating it,
- retrieving it, and
- extracting it.

Given the breadth and scope of your request, which spans all directorates, all analytics tools, all datasets used, all project names and all related contracts it is estimated that the time required to conduct these searches across the entire council would far exceed the

appropriate limit set out in the FOI Fees Regulations which is set at £450 for local authorities or 18 hours of work charged at a flat rate of £25 per person, per hour.

We are therefore refusing your request under Section 12 FOIA on the grounds that the cost of compliance would exceed the statutory limit.

Although we are not required to comply with your request, we are required to offer advice and assistance to help you narrow the scope so that it may fall within the cost limit. If you would be happy to narrow down your request to a specific directorate and specify the analytical systems you are interested in e.g. Power BI then we should be able to provide you with some information.