

Freedom of Information Request – Response – 27816

I am writing to submit a request under the freedom of information act. In this regard, please provide responses to the below requests:

1- Does the council have a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)?

Yes

If yes, please provide responses to the following questions. If no, please disregard the following questions.

2- Please confirm the names and religious denominations of all Group A members of the SACRE from 2019 until present.

Suffolk County Council (SCC) holds information relating to the names and religious denominations of Group A members of SACRE. However, this information constitutes personal data. Religious or philosophical beliefs are also recognised as a special category of personal data under data protection legislation. Disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is disclosure to the world at large.

Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) exempts information from disclosure where it is the personal data of a third party and disclosure would contravene one or more of the data protection principles. The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) states that personal information must not be disclosed under FOIA where disclosure would contravene the data protection principles.

SCC considers that disclosing the names of individual SACRE Group A members alongside their religious denomination would identify those individuals and reveal information about their religious beliefs or affiliations. We do not consider that those individuals would reasonably expect this information to be disclosed into the public domain in response to an FOI request, nor have we identified a lawful basis that would make such disclosure fair and lawful. Disclosure would therefore contravene the first data protection principle.

Accordingly, the requested information is exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This is an absolute exemption and is not subject to the public interest test.

3- Please confirm the names of all Group C members of the SACRE from 2019 until present.

We can confirm that Suffolk County Council holds this information. However, the information is readily accessible to you, as it is already in the public domain.

Section 21 of the FOIA states that a public authority does not need to provide information under section 1 of the Act if that information is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means.

Minutes can be found on the link below.

[Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education \(SACRE\) – Suffolk Learning](#)

