

15 May 2023

Case Reference IC-227457-R3M5

Your request

You asked us for the following:

"Please tell me, ICO, what information you hold on changing one's sex being recorded on official documents that reflect people's choice of sex designation."

Given that you have requested this in relation to the quoted Tweet referring to the Commissioner's expressed views on the subject before being appointed as UK Information Commissioner, we understand this to be a request for any recorded position of the ICO on this matter since the appointment of John Edwards on 3 January 2022.

Where your questions satisfy the criteria of a valid information request, we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Our response

After having performed reasonable searches of our systems and enquiries of relevant departments, we can confirm that the ICO does not hold any information within scope of your request. We should emphasise that the article referred to in your quoted Tweet was written in 2019, long before John Edwards took up the role of UK Information Commissioner in January 2022.

By way of advice and assistance, you may find our guidance on [personal data accuracy](#) helpful, though this does not specify what constitutes 'accuracy' in terms of sex or gender, and any complaints made to the ICO will be handled on a case by case basis.

Though no longer published on our website and pertaining to a previous legislative regime, the ICO produced a blog on changes to name and gender and data protection in 2014. The National Archives still holds a copy [here](#).

Lastly, you may wish to refer to the Gender Recognition Act 2004, which identifies the time at which a change of sex becomes legally recognised.

This concludes our response.

We hope you find this information helpful.