



Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 000010-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies on the 29 December 2017 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"The number of individuals who have been held in police custody whose address is recorded as no fixed abode or no address, or who have no address recorded, per calendar month for 2015 (ie. January 2015: 10, February 2015: 15, etc);*
2. *The number of individuals who have been held in police custody whose address is recorded as no fixed abode or no address, or who have no address recorded, per calendar month for 2016 (ie. January 2016: 10, February 2016: 15, etc);*
3. *The number of individuals who have been held in police custody whose address is recorded as no fixed abode or no address, or who have no address recorded, per calendar month for 2017 (ie. January 2017: 10, February 2017: 15, etc); and*
4. *The number of days between 1 January 2017 to date that new admissions to police custody have been halted."*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 31 January 2018

Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies have considered your request for information and our response is below.

Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies are only able to research persons with No Fixed Abode (NFA) recorded within the address fields of their custody records. It is not necessarily the case the records with no address entered into the appropriate field means no address is recorded. There are a number of places an address can be entered and to ensure an accurate response for those with no address is provided, we would need to manually review each custody record, which would exceed the appropriate limit to deal with FOI requests.

In relation to your request for information and in accordance with Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), this response serves as a formal notification of refusal for your

request. The Constabularies do not hold, for the purposes of FOIA, all of the information you require in a retrievable format.

It is estimated that to attempt to retrieve all of the information you require would take a considerable amount of retrieval time, exceeding the appropriate limit for dealing with Freedom of Information requests in terms of costs and therefore, Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 applies.

It is considered that to provide an answer to your request will take in excess of 36 hours to provide the information. Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 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, defines the ‘appropriate limit’ for the Constabularies as £450 and specifies that this sum equates to 18 hours work per force at a standard rate of £25 per hour. This equates to 36 hours of work, or £900, for joint responses.

In accordance with Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter serves as a refusal notice for this part of your request.

By requesting *all* information your request is too broad to be complied with within the limit imposed on Freedom of Information requests.

Although excess cost removes the Force’s obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your request, 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 total number of detainees recorded with NFA recorded in the address field of the custody record, is as follows:

Suffolk			
Month	2015	2016	2017
January	41	50	45
February	37	57	56
March	42	37	54
April	31	45	60
May	43	54	55
June	37	54	54
July	27	49	61
August	37	53	51
September	28	40	49
October	30	51	69
November	34	50	54

December	43	42	36
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Norfolk			
Month	2015	2016	2017
January	26	69	59
February	33	79	67
March	16	79	94
April	34	95	58
May	32	95	63
June	38	79	59
July	39	116	62
August	40	83	51
September	34	72	76
October	36	77	50
November	45	77	40
December	60	63	54

Question 4

We have a process whereby any one of the 6 PICs in Norfolk and Suffolk can operate on a restricted/limited capability basis or short term closure to new arrivals. Reasons why this may occur can include:

- Detainee needs (some will require more attention than others and can be more demanding whilst in police custody)
- High volume of detainees (including full to capacity)
- Unforeseen sick absences with high demand

This process is constantly reviewed and the PIC status reverted to normal as soon as it is possible and appropriate to do so.

During 2017, the number of recorded days where the status of at least 1 PIC changed from fully operational to restricted/limited capability or short term closure was 33 (Please note that only on one occasion did more than 1 PIC move to this status albeit at different times during a 24hr period).

Since January 1 2018, there have been 7 occurrences of restricted/limited capability or short term closure.

Please note that none of the restricted/limited capability or short term closure has been for a full day.

Should you have any further queries concerning this request, please contact Clair Pack, 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 and Suffolk Constabularies are 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 the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary to review their decision.

Ask Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies to look at the decision again.

If you are dissatisfied with the decision made by Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies under the Freedom of Information Act (2000), regarding access to information, you must notify the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary that you are requesting a review within 20 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
Suffolk Constabulary
Police Headquarters
Martlesham Heath
Ipswich
Suffolk
IP5 3QS
OR
Email: information@suffolk.pnn.police.uk*

In all possible circumstances Norfolk and Suffolk 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 and Suffolk 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