

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

REQUEST NUMBER: **FOI Request 000077-17 (Suffolk)**
 FOI Request 00091-17 (Norfolk)

REQUEST DETAILS:

I would like to request the FOI responses for the last calendar year. To clarify:

> Please send a zip file (or some other way of grouping files) of all final responses and any attachments of all FOI requests you have responded to from January 1st 2016 to today.

RESPONSE:

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

This response is correct as of 3 January 2017

The Constabulary has produced a report, which confirms all requests responded to from 1 January 2016 – 1 January 2017. This report excludes those requests that were closed as 'Abandoned by Applicant', 'Business as Usual' or 'Duplicate'.

The report confirms the request number, request text and the disposition, i.e. whether the information was disclosed in full, in part or not at all.

The Constabularies consider, for those responses where no information was provided, that the provision of the report is sufficient. There is an additional column that confirms where exemptions have been applied.

In respect those responses issued, which provide a full or partial response, the information has not been supplied due to exemptions within the Act.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires that Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) is to provide you the applicant with a notice in which:

- (a) States that fact
- (b) Specifies the exemption(s) in question and
- (c) States (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption(s) applies.

The information is exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemptions;

Section 21(1) – Information reasonably accessible by other means

Section 22(1) – Information intended for future publication

Information concerning the Constabulary's disclosures, where information has been disclosed in full or in part, is published on the Constabularies disclosure log pages and is therefore reasonably accessible by other means as per Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The following links will take you to the Constabulary disclosure log pages:

<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/services/freedom-information/disclosure-logs>

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

Section 22 is a qualified, class-based exemption and I am therefore required to produce a Public Interest Test.

Public Interest Test

(When applying a qualified exemption a public authority is required to consider whether 'in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information')

Considerations favouring disclosure

When information disclosed relates directly to the efficiency and effectiveness of the Force or its Officers. In this instance to release copies of our responses would demonstrate greater openness and transparency as the information supplied should, under the terms of the Act, be made available for the 'world'.

Disclosure can assist individuals by the provision of information relating to the workings of the Constabularies and provide statistical data concerning crime trends including how the Constabulary is tackling crime.

In certain cases, providing this information could assist in research that could benefit the community as a whole, again enabling accurate public awareness and debate.

Considerations favouring non-disclosure

To supply data, which has not yet been published, would require a large amount of time to collate the information required, and particularly with respect the Norfolk responses, the redaction of personal data from the disclosures.

The FOIA legally allows members of the Public to request any information held by the Public Authority. In order to supply this information, resources are allocated to locate and retrieve it. The Section 21 and 22 exemptions were

specifically laid down by parliament to benefit those authorities that proactively publish information. To constantly produce new and up to date elements of the currently published information, in order to satisfy an additional need outside of the annual schedule, will render these exemptions less effective and remove the benefits of the proactive publication.

Balancing Test

It is noted that Public Awareness and Debate are key to the FOIA, making Authorities more accountable and providing up to date relevant statistical information, improving knowledge and public understanding of the Force.

However, the Constabulary are actively publishing information on our disclosure logs for the 2015 and 2016 calendar years. All of which will be published as soon as practically possible.

It is therefore the decision of the Constabulary that the provision of responses with a partial or full response, is not made at this time for the above reasons.