



SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

REQUEST NUMBER: FOI Request 000119-17

REQUEST DETAILS:

1. *"Total number of arrests made in Suffolk by ethnicity and gender in 2014, 2015, 2016 and the present day or most recently recorded.*
2. *The outcomes for 92a, 92c, 92d and 92e by ethnicity and gender in Suffolk, in 2014, 2015, 2016 to the present day or most recently recorded. This data should show both the number of offences, and the number of "outcomes" for drug possession offences in each year (e.g. fixed penalty notice, caution, charge etc)."*

RESPONSE:

Suffolk Constabulary has considered your request for information and our response is below.

This response is correct as of 5 January 2017

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. Suffolk Constabulary does not hold, for the purposes of FOIA, 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, which would exceed 18 hours. This would exceed 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.

As a result of temporary access issues, the Constabulary has been unable to locate the information requested prior to November 2015, from our legacy systems.

It is anticipated that such information will be available in the future, however for the time being, the Constabulary will only be able to access the information requested via a manual trawl of the legacy data.

Given the volume of records we would need to research, we are unable to provide data prior to November 2015 at this time, within cost.

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



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Fees) Regulations, defines the 'appropriate limit' for the Suffolk Constabulary as £450 and specifies that this sum equates to 18 hours work at a standard rate of £25 per hour.

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 £450 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.

A search has been completed of the Constabulary's crime system ATHENA for all offences recorded where an individual was arrested, for the time frame October 2015 – December 2016.

The information provided on the attached excel spreadsheet confirms the number of arrests for drug related offences, broken down by gender and ethnicity.

Police forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide crime statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the crime data. It should be noted that for these reasons this force's response to your questions should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you may receive.

Please be aware that the information provided/researched from the 19 October 2015 has been extracted from the Athena crime system. The information provided is subject to change as processes are amended to ensure accurate and precise crime recording.