



**Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 000160-18 (Suffolk)
FOI 000172-18 (Norfolk)**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies on the 11 January 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

"I would like to make the following request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

For the calendar year 2017 (1/1/17-31/12/17) please can you tell me:

- 1. How many people were charged by your force for meeting a child following sexual grooming contrary to section 15 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.*
- 2. How many people were charged by your force for attempting to meet a child following sexual grooming contrary to section 1(1) of the Criminal Attempts Act 1981.*
- 3. Of the total number from answer 1 added to answer 2 (so the total number of people charged with meeting a child plus those charged with attempting to meet a child) how many were charged based on some or all evidence provided by what are commonly known as vigilante paedophile hunter groups.*

By that I mean any member of the public who acts as independent investigator to target people who use the internet to meet or attempt to meet children for sexual reasons."

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 18 January 2018

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

A search has been completed of the Constabularies crime system for all offences of Meeting a child under Section 15 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and Attempting to meet a child under Section 1 of the Criminal Attempts Act 1981.

The table provided below confirms the total number of persons charged during 2017 for the above offences and the number that included evidence provided by vigilante paedophile hunter groups. Please note the information relates to the in which they were charged, as opposed to the year in which the offence occurred or was reported.

Offence	Norfolk	Suffolk
Meeting a child	1	1
Attempting to meet a child	5	3
Evidence provided by vigilante paedophile hunter groups	3	1

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