



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 000295-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 18 January 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"Since 17 January 2013 until the current date, how many people have been:
(i) arrested under Hunting Act 2004
(ii) charged for hunting a wild animal with dogs under Hunting Act 2004
(iii) Please can these figures be broken down per year, the place and for the type of animal they were alleged to have hunted to be included.*
2. *I would also like to know since 17 January 2013, how many reports the police has received about people hunting a wild animal with dogs. Can I have that broken down year on year please.*
3. *Please can you tell me how much the force has spent on policing hunting in this way. Again, can I have that broken down year on year please.*
4. *The number of times police have been deployed to cover fox hunts, stag hunts or hare coursing since 17 January 2013? So can I have that data broken down by year and type of hunt?*
5. *In relation to Q4 can I have the costs of policing each individual hunt?"*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 31 January 2018

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

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.



The Constabulary is unable to confirm the total number of occasions a report of illegal hunts has been received owing to the way in which the information is recorded within the call data. All such information is recorded under the category of 'public safety – animals/wildlife'. There were a total of 9,432 records recorded with this marker, from the date of the system being implemented into the Constabulary, 29 November 2013. Each would need to be reviewed in order to establish whether the incident is relevant to the request.

We consider this search would take in excess of 160 hours to extract.

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 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 for all hunting act offences recorded for the time frame 13 January 2013 – 13 January 2018.

The tables provided below confirm all arrests made associated with the Hunting Act 2004, including the location, animal involved and outcome. This will therefore exclude any offences where no arrests were made.

Please note the information is presented in two tables as a result in a change in crime recording systems during October 2015.

The information represents the number of persons arrests for an offences under the Hunting Act 2004, as opposed to the number of recorded crimes.



Location	Animal	Outcome	2013	2015	Total
Stowupland	Hare	Charged and Bailed		2	2
Glemsford	deer		2		2
Hitcham	Hare	Reprimanded by Police	1		1
Kirton	Hare	No Further Action		1	1
Chelmondiston	Hare		4		4
Wattisham	Hare		1		1
Wetheringsett	Hare		2		2
Total			7	6	13

Location	Animal	Outcome	2015	2016	2017	Total
Bury St Edmunds	Hare	Charged and Remanded			1	1
	Hare	No further action	3			3
Capel St Mary	Hare	Police Bail/RUI			4	4
Great Ashfield	Hare	Charged and Remanded			2	2
Haverhill	Fox	Under Investigation			2	2
Lakenheath	Hare	Police Bail/RUI			4	4
Newmarket	Fox	No further action		1		1
Stowmarket	Hare	NFA	4			4
Grand Total			7	1	13	21

Financial information is not recorded specifically in relation to policing of hunts. Named operations have an allocated budget code and we also are able to extract overtime figures, where the

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/>

Suffolk Constabulary is 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 Suffolk Constabulary to review their decision.

Ask Suffolk Constabulary to look at the decision again.

If you are dissatisfied with the decision made by Suffolk Constabulary under the Freedom of Information Act (2000), regarding access to information, you must notify 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 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 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