



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 000324-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 20 January 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

“The number of times a taser has been used/deployed by police in Suffolk for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017, sorted by year and month, specifying incident type, location and outcome.”

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 22 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 provide details regarding incident type, location and outcome. The information is recorded within the Taser Deployment Forms, however these are not held within a computerised database and therefore we would need to review each form to extract the data requested.

Considering there are around 80-100 Taser uses each month, we estimated it would take in excess of 30 hours per year to provide the information requested.

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.

The total number of occasions a Taser has been used in Suffolk from 2015 – 2017 is provided in the table below, by month and method of use.

2015	Deployed	Drawn	Aimed	Red Dot	Fired	Drive Stun	Angled Drive Stun
January	82	8	0	5	2	0	0
February	41	1	1	2	1	0	0
March	91	3	1	3	0	0	0
April	87	7	0	5	0	0	0
May	92	1	0	6	1	0	0
June	110	1	2	7	2	0	0
July	98	6	0	6	2	0	0
August	89	2	0	2	4	1	0
September	79	5	0	2	2	0	0
October	89	5	2	7	0	0	0
November	108	9	0	7	1	0	0
December	109	3	0	5	1	0	1

2016	Deployed	Drawn	Aimed	Red Dot	Fired	Drive Stun	Angled Drive Stun
January	98	2	0	8	2	0	0
February	100	4	1	7	1	0	0
March	120	4	2	11	5	0	0
April	106	2	2	6	2	0	0
May	127	3	1	6	0	0	0
June	121	3	1	7	0	0	0
July	113	4	3	7	1	0	0
August	80	6	1	5	2	0	0
September	68	3	0	6	1	0	0
October	30	2	0	5	1	0	0



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November	43	2	2	4	1	0	0
December	75	5	2	9	0	0	0

2017	Deployed	Drawn	Aimed	Red Dot	Arced	Fired	Drive Stun	Angled Drive Stun
January	94	4	1	10	0	0	0	0
February	106	5	3	5	0	0	0	0
March	88	4	1	6	0	3	0	0
April	119	4	2	6	1	2	0	0
May	120	7	0	5	1	1	0	0
June	94	6	0	15	1	1	0	0
July	93	15	2	10	0	2	0	0
August	26	9	4	7	0	3	0	0
September	26	5	1	3	0	0	0	0
October	30	6	0	8	0	0	0	0
November	16	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
December	24	2	0	6	0	4	0	0

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