



Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 000339-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies on the 22 January 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"How many times your force has used 'spit hoods' during arrests during the following financial years:*
 - a) 2013/14
 - b) 2014/15
 - c) 2015/16
 - d) 2016/17
 - e) 2017/18 to date
2. *Please provide separate breakdowns by age, gender and ethnicity of the arrested persons dressed in spit hoods (i.e. tables showing the numbers by age, by gender and by ethnicity, separately)*
3. *Please provide the age and gender of the youngest person to have a spit hood used on them during the five years mentioned above."*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 26 January 2018

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

1. The following table confirm the total number of occasions Spit guards were used during the 2014-2018 calendar years. Please note that the information is recorded by calendar year as opposed to financial year.

Suffolk

Please be aware that the guards were removed for a short period of time during 2015 and this is reflected in the lower figures at this time.

Year	Number of Uses
2013	12
2014	25

2015	4
2016	28
2017	38
2018	0

Norfolk

Spit guards were introduced during 2014, the rise in 2015 illustrates that they were authorised for use by patrol officers and not limited to custody environments.

Year	Number of Uses
2014	11
2015	23
2016	54
2017	68
2018	4

2. The ages of the individuals, where recorded, are as follows: Please note that during 2017 there was a change in process resulting in the ages being recorded in age bands, rather than specific ages. The information has therefore been provided in two tables.

Year	Age Range (Suffolk)				
	Under 18	18-25	26-35	Over 35	Unknown
2013	Not recorded				
2014	Not recorded				
2015	0	0	2	0	2
2016	0	9	11	5	3
2017	5	4	6	8	7

Year	Age Range (Suffolk)			
	Under 18	18-34	35-49	Unknown
2017	0	4	4	0

Year	Age Range (Norfolk)				
	Under 18	18-25	26-35	Over 35	Unknown
2014	0	2	3	3	3
2015	0	11	6	5	1

2016	3	14	13	12	12
2017	2	6	15	15	14

Year	Age Range (Norfolk)			
	Under 18	18-34	35-49	Unknown
2017	0	9	7	0
2018	0	4	0	0

The genders of the individuals are as follows:

Year	Gender (Suffolk)		
	Male	Female	Unknown
2013	Not recorded		
2014	Not recorded		
2015	2	0	2
2016	23	5	0
2017	27	11	0

Year	Gender (Norfolk)		
	Male	Female	Unknown
2014	9	1	1
2015	19	4	0
2016	45	9	0
2017	54	13	1
2018	3	1	0

The ethnicity of the individuals, where recorded, is as follows:

Year	Ethnicity (Suffolk)			
	Asian	Black	White	Unknown
2013	Not recorded			
2014	Not recorded			
2015			2	2
2016		3	24	1
2017	1	6	30	1

Year	Ethnicity (Norfolk)				
	Arabic or N.African	Asian	Black	White	Unknown
2014	0	0	1	8	2
2015	0	0	1	22	0
2016	1	1	1	49	2
2017	1	1	0	63	3
2018	0	1	0	3	0

3. The youngest person against whom a spit guard was used in Suffolk was a 14 year old white male.

The youngest person against whom a spit guard was used in Norfolk was a 15 year old white male.

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