



Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 000355-18

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

1. *"For the months of November and December 2017 how many crimes were logged by your force where a machete was recorded as being an element in the offence? [Note: I would hope that this could be achieved by a computer search on the MO of crimes for the words "machete" or variants of the spelling to include "machette" and "machetes".*
2. *Please provide me with a table showing a breakdown of the crimes from Q.1 that are 'linked' to machete/s by its mention in the MO.*
3. *Taking the month of December 2017 please provide me with copies of the first 5 MOs that mention machetes. [Note: To avoid falling into an exemption I am content for names, ages, geography or any other personal detail to be redacted].*
4. *For the months of November and December 2017 how many crimes were logged by your force where acid was recorded as being an element in the offence? [Note: I would hope that this could be achieved by a computer search on the MO of crimes for the words "acid" or "acid-attack".*
5. *Please provide me with a table showing a breakdown of the crimes from Q.4 that are 'linked' to acid and acid attacks by its mention in the MO.*
6. *Taking the month of December 2017 please provide me with copies of the first 5 MOs that mention acid. [Note: To avoid falling into an exemption I am content for names, ages, geography or any other personal detail to be redacted]."*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 24 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 recorded that contain the word 'Machete' or 'Acid', or variants thereof, within the MO of the crime.

The tables provided below confirm the total number of offences recorded during November and December 2017 for each Constabulary. Please note that the information provided relates to those offences that contain these words only within the MO, for example we have not included any offence that refers to 'corrosive substance' as opposed to 'acid' etc. There will potentially be other offences linked to Machetes or Acid attacks, which have not been extracted due to the way in which the information was researched.

Constabulary	Offence Description - Machete	Total
Norfolk	POSSESSION OF WEAPONS	2
Suffolk	ROBBERY OF PERSONAL PROPERTY	1
	POSSESSION OF WEAPONS	1

Constabulary	Offence Description - Acid	Total
Norfolk	CRIMINAL DAMAGE	2
	PUBLIC FEAR, ALARM OR DISTRESS	1
Suffolk	CRIMINAL DAMAGE	1
	VIOLENCE WITHOUT INJURY	2

The MO of the offences recorded during December 2017, is provided below:

Machete – Norfolk

Between stated times on given date on suburban street in daylight hours reporting person has witnessed a road rage incident whereby one of the involved parties pulled out a knife or machete and started waving it around

Machete – Suffolk

During daylight hours group of approximately six suspects wearing facial coverings and gloves have forced entry ... once inside offenders have climbed set of stairs to first floor and confronted ... occupant with a knife pointing machete towards victims face demanding money

Possess bladed article in public place. Following arrest of suspect ... police have located a machete type knife in his car in passenger footwell.

Acid – Norfolk

CRIMINAL DAMAGE
IP reports that overnight unknown persons have caused damage to his vehicle whilst parked on the road outside his house. They have slashed all the tyres, poured some sort of paint stripper or acid on the vehicle which has stripped off most of the paint on the bonnet. Also poured it through the air vent and scratched down the passenger side.

Acid – Suffolk – No offences with 'Acid' in the MO field during December 2017

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.

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