



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 000480-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 1 February 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *“How many crimes have been solved and unsolved in your areas of operation?”*
2. *How long have these crimes been unsolved for?*

Please provide the figures for the above each of the following years - 2017, 2016, 2015 and 2014.

Clarification

- *Crimes unsolved in relation to the home office crime recording guidance*
- *The date the crimes were recorded to the date they were made undetected or still open.”*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 16 February 2018

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

During October 2015, the Constabulary changed crime recording system. There are a total of 14,564 crimes recorded on the legacy system that do not have a finalisation date recorded within the appropriate field of the crime. A dip sample of a few of these offences confirmed that they had been finalised a while ago but the reports were not pulling out the data. An additional check was made on data extracted that did have an outcome date. A number of those checked were also not accurate, resulting in the Constabulary having to effectively check each offences manually.

For the above reason, the Constabulary cannot categorically state that information contained within this system can be accurately relied upon for the purpose of identifying the number of offences solved and unsolved.

We anticipate it will take in excess of 480 hours to extract reliable data for those where no date at all is recorded.

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.

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.

Information has been extracted from the current crime recording system, for all offences recorded to establish the number that have a recorded outcome and the number of those that are solved or unsolved, according to the Home Office Crime Recording Standards (HOCRS).

The information provided on the attached spreadsheet confirms the total number of offences recorded by as solved or unsolved, which we have established from the relevant outcome. The second tab confirms the numbers that are currently under investigation and the third tab confirms the information be specific outcome.

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.

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