



Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 000492-18

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. *"a) How many offences of meeting a child following sexual grooming were recorded between 1st January 2015 and the present day? Please break these figures down by year. I would like the information to be based on the Home Office Classification of 88A Sexual Grooming, which covers the following offences:*

88/1 - Meeting a female child following sexual grooming etc. (Offender is aged 18 or over and victim is under 16)

88/2 - Meeting a male child following sexual grooming etc. (Offender is aged 18 or over and victim is under 16)

b) For this same time period, how many times were the police alerted by a sting operation carried out by a member of the public?

(NB The term 'sting operation' refers to an independent investigation carried out by a member of the public with the explicit aim of catching sexual groomers. It does not apply to members of the public reporting concerns about their own children being groomed online.)

2. *How many officers have completed the CEOP Ambassador Course, or any other course carried out by CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection command) since 1st January 2015? Please break these figures down annually."*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 15 February 2018

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

1. A search has been completed of the Constabulary's crime system for all offences recorded under Home Office classification 88A, including the offences of 'Meeting a child following sexual grooming', from 1 January 2015 to date.

The total number of grooming offences reported to the Constabulary is provided in the table below:

Offence Code	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
088/01	25	29	13	1	68
088/02	2	5	5		12
Grand Total	27	34	18	1	80

A free text search was carried out of the word 'Sting' which returned no relevant offences.

2. Suffolk Constabulary can **neither confirm nor deny** that it holds any information concerning completion of the CEOP Ambassador Course by virtue of the following exemption:

Section 23(5) – Information supplied by, or concerning, certain security bodies

The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, compliance with section 1(1)(a) would involve the disclosure of any information (whether or not already recorded), which was directly or indirectly supplied to the public authority by, or relates to, any bodies specified in subsection (3).

This is an absolute exemption and I am therefore not required to complete a public interest test.

This cannot be taken as confirmation or otherwise that further information does or does not exist.

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