



## Freedom of Information Request Reference N<sup>o</sup>: FOI 000551-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies on the 7 February 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"How many serving officers does your force currently have?"*
2. *How many serving officers have been given a speeding penalty of any kind (points/fines/speed awareness course) in the last five years, while either on or off duty? Please provide a year-by-year breakdown.*
3. *How many serving officers have been caught not wearing a seatbelt when driving in the last five years, while either on or off duty? Please provide a year-by-year breakdown.*
4. *How many serving officers have been caught using a handheld mobile phone when driving in the last five years, while either on or off duty? Please provide a year-by-year breakdown.*
5. *How many serving officers have been caught driving while over the proscribed limit for drink or drugs when driving (including connected offences, such as driving or attempting to drive with alcohol/drug level above limit, refusing to supply specimens for analysis etc) in the last five years, while either on or off duty? Please provide a year-by-year breakdown."*

## Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 7 February 2018

Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies have considered your request for information and our 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. The Constabularies do not hold, for the purposes of FOIA, all of 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, exceeding 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.

It is considered that to provide an answer to your request will take in excess of 36 hours to provide the information.

In respect questions 2-4, minor traffic offences re reported to the Constabularies driving school in line with force policy, which confirms:

*There is a requirement for all police personnel to report to the Chief Constable;*

- *Any driving convictions which attract penalty points and/or a period of disqualification whether through court proceedings or otherwise, or*
- *Any other court conviction relating to the driving or use of a motor vehicle on a road.*

*It is the responsibility of each authorised driver to report any conviction or endorsements as above to the Driving School via their line/departmental manager. In addition to this all authorised drivers are required to report any impending court proceedings/hearings that could result in a conviction or endorsement.*

*The Chief Inspector Response will on the basis of the specific incident, the driver history and where appropriate in consultation with the driver's line management decide whether;*

1. *To take any further action*
2. *To arrange a driving assessment*
3. *To refer the matter to Professional Standards Department for advice on misconduct proceedings.*

Any reports to the driving school are entered onto staff personnel records. There is no central record for this and each individual HR record will need to be reviewed to establish whether the individual has reported a minor traffic offence to either Constabulary.

Considering this would involve a search of thousands of records, we anticipate it would take well in excess of 36 hours to extract the data 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 Constabularies as £450 and specifies that this sum equates to 18 hours work per force at a standard rate of £25 per hour. This equates to 36 hours of work, or £900, for joint responses.

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 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 officers currently employed by the Constabularies is as follows:

<b>Force</b>	<b>Headcount</b>	<b>FTE</b>
<b>Norfolk</b>	1519	1467.4
<b>Suffolk</b>	1092	1063.9

For matters referred to the Professional Standards Department, an assessment is made if any misconduct proceedings should follow for any breach(es) of the Standards of Professional behaviour.

A review of the internal conduct cases recorded in Professional Standards for the period 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2017 has been conducted.

With respect Norfolk officers, two police officers were convicted of driving with excess alcohol whilst off duty. Both these incidents occurred in 2016. Misconduct proceedings were undertaken and both were subject to misconduct hearings where they were dismissed.

With respect Suffolk officers, one police officer appeared at court for driving with excess alcohol whilst off duty in 2016. The officer was found not guilty but went on to appear at a misconduct hearing where they were dismissed.

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](mailto: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](http://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