



15th March 2019

Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 000762/19

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies on the 21st February 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

- 1 For 2018; the number of assaults against on duty Police Officers, including serious assaults such as murder and attempted murder, with a breakdown of the type of assault
- 2 For 2017; the number of assaults against on duty Police Officers, including serious assaults such as murder and attempted murder, with a breakdown of the type of assault
- 3 For 2016; the number of assaults against on duty Police Officers, including serious assaults such as murder and attempted murder, with a breakdown of the type of assault

Response to your Request

When responding to a request for information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, a public authority is not obliged to provide information if the authority estimates that the cost of the retrieval of the information requested would be in excess of £450 (equivalent to 18 hours work).

The costs criteria relates to a request in its entirety, which means that if we cannot retrieve all of the information requested within the costs limit, we are not obliged to retrieve *any* of the information requested.

The Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies estimates that to retrieve all the information you have requested for both forces would exceed cost in excess of £450 (per force).

Since April 2017, there have been offence codes relating to assaults on Police Officers which have resulted in either an injury or no injury. Prior to this there was an offence category for assaults on officers with no injury. However, if an injury occurred, this would be recorded under the specific violence offence category, for example ABH, GBH, etc. Whilst there is a field for the victim occupation, this is not a mandatory field on a crime report. Between 1st January 2016 and 31st March 2017, there have been 2113 crimes recorded where the occupation field is blank.

To identify whether any of these reports relate to an assault on a Police Officer, it would be necessary to case read the details of each one. Based on an estimate of 5 minutes each, this would exceed 176 hours.

This would significantly exceed the appropriate limit for dealing with a Freedom of Information request, in terms of costs, and therefore Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act applies.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 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 2004, defines the 'appropriate limit' for the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies as £450 for each Constabulary, and specifies that this sum equates to 18 hours work at a standard rate of £25 per hour.

In accordance with Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000), this serves as a Refusal Notice for your request.

Advice & Assistance

Although excess cost removes the Constabularies obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, we have supplied information, relative to your request, which was 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.

Please see figures below for 2018:-

2018			
Offence Type	Norfolk	Suffolk	Total
VIOLENCE WITH INJURY	148	93	241
Assault Police - Assault with Injury - Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	122	77	199
Assault Police - Assault with Injury - Malicious wounding: wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm (Minor wound or equivalent)	15	10	25
Assault Police - Assault with Injury - Malicious wounding: wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm (Serious wound or equivalent)	1	-	1
Assault Police - Assault with Intent to cause Serious Harm - Wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm	-	1	1
Assault Police – Cause GBH with intent to resist/prevent arrest.	2	1	3
Assault Police - Wounding with intent to resist/prevent arrest	4	3	7
Attempted - Assault Police - Assault with Intent to cause Serious Harm - Wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm	3	1	4
Attempted - Assault Police - Cause GBH with intent to resist/prevent arrest.	1	-	1
VIOLENCE WITHOUT INJURY	427	337	764
Assault or assault by beating of a constable	19	25	44
Assault without Injury on a Constable - Assaults a designated person or his assistant in the exercise of a relevant power	3	1	4
Assault without Injury on a Constable - Assaults a member of a joint investigation team carrying out his functions as a member of that team	-	1	1
Assault without Injury on a Constable - Vagrant violently resisting a constable	-	1	1
Assault without injury on a constable (Police Act offence)	400	306	706
Attempted - Assault without injury on a constable (Police Act offence)	5	3	8
Grand Total	575	430	1005

This response will be published on the Constabularies web-site under the Freedom of Information pages:-

<https://www.norfolk.police.uk/about-us/our-data/disclosure-log>

<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/services/freedom-information/disclosure-logs>

Should you have any further queries concerning this request, please contact Amanda Gibson, 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 40 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
Norfolk Constabulary
Operations and Communications Centre
Jubilee House
Falconers Chase
Wymondham
Norfolk NR18 0WW
OR
Email: freedomofinformation@norfolk.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