



## **Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 000781-18**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 26 February 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"The number of vehicle-related thefts reported to your police force in each of the last 3 years (2015, 2016, 2017).*
2. *i) Of those vehicle related thefts the number classified as "theft of vehicle" i.e. where the vehicle is driven away illegally in each of the last 3 years (2015, 2016, 2017).*  
  
*ii) The make and model of the car stolen in question 2 i) in each of the last 3 years (2015, 2016, 2017).*  
  
*iii) Of those cars stolen in question 2 i) how many were cars with "Keyless" or "remote access" to the vehicle in each of the last 3 years (2015, 2016, 2017).*  
  
*iv) Of those cars stolen in question 2 i) the method of entry used to access the vehicle in each of the last 3 years (2015, 2016, 2017).*
3. *Summary details on all vehicle related thefts - including any mention of "keyless" or "remote" access to the car in each of the last 3 years (2015, 2016, 2017).*
4. *Outcome of all police investigations in to vehicle related thefts, i.e. suspect charged, no further action, etc in each of the last 3 years (2015, 2016, 2017)."*

## **Response to your Request**

The response provided below is correct as of 26 February 2018

Suffolk Constabulary has considered your request for information and the 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. 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.

In relation to question 2 iii) if the vehicle was keyless or remote access and 2 iv) the method of entry used, whilst this information may be recorded within the crime text it is not easily searchable and would involve a free text read of each crime record to establish if the information requested.

Considering that for 2015, 2016 and 2017 there was a total of 1562 “theft of vehicle” offences, at an approximate 3 minutes per search this would take in the region of 80 hours to retrieve.

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.

The number of vehicle related thefts recorded for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017 is as follows:

2015 = 3122  
2016 = 2588  
2017 = 2938

The number of “theft of vehicles” offences recorded by the constabulary is as follows:

2015 = 456  
2016 = 527  
2017 = 579



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](mailto: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](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