



Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 001074-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies on the 21st March 2018, in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"How many people arrested since last April were released on pre-charge bail.*
2. *How many people arrested between April 2016 and March 2017 were released on pre-charge bail.*
3. *What proportion of arrests over the two periods resulted in pre-charge bail.*
4. *How many people arrested since last April were released under investigation.*
5. *How many people arrested between April 2016 and March 2017 were released under investigation.*
6. *What proportion of arrests over the two periods resulted in release under investigation.*
7. *The average length of time for which people have been released under investigation since April 2017.*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 21st March 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.

In relation to Question 7 of your request; the average length of time in which people have been released under investigation (RUI), this information is not recorded separately and is not easily retrievable without researching the length of time for each individual RUI.

We do not actively record the average length of time, and under the FOI Act are not required to create new information. Whilst we are not obliged to create this data, even to collate the information for the requestor to calculate would exceed the time limit.

Since April 2017 there have been a total of 7607 people RUI between Suffolk and Norfolk Constabulary, researching each case to obtain the length of time would in itself exceed the statutory time and therefore it is considered that to provide an answer to your request will take in excess of 36 hours to provide the information.

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.

1. Since April 2017, the following number of people have been released on pre-charge bail:

Suffolk – 816
Norfolk – 715

2. Between April 2016 and March 2017, the following number of people were released on pre-charge bail:

Suffolk – 7043
Norfolk – 9881

3. The below table provides the total number of arrests over the two time periods, please then refer to the information provided in 1 and 2:

	April 2016 – March 2017	April 2017 - March 2018
Suffolk Constabulary	9792	10105
Norfolk Constabulary	16068	15355

4. Since April 2017, the following number of people were released under investigation:

Suffolk – 3489
Norfolk – 4118

5. Between April 2016 and March 2017, the following number of people were released under investigation:

Suffolk – 0
Norfolk – 0

6. Please see above information provided in 3 and 4.

It is important to note there was a change in legislation that came in to effect on 4th April 2017 which changed the presumption that all persons should be released under investigation and only bailed when proportionate and necessary.

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*

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