

Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 001102-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 11th March, 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

“Please may I have the total number of knife crimes for the past five 12 month periods?

Please may I have the most recent 12 months set out like this - from March 2017 to March 2018.

Please may I have the total number of knife crimes for the previous four 12 month periods.

March 2016 - March 2017

March 2015 - March 2016

March 2014 - March 2015

March 2013 - March 2014”

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 05 April 2018

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

A search has been completed of the Constabulary’s crime information systems for all violent offences recorded that relate to the possession of a weapon.

The information was then filtered to include those that included the possession of a ‘knife’, ‘Knives’, ‘Blade’, ‘Axe’, ‘Scissors’, ‘Sword’ or ‘Machete’.

The below table confirms the total number of offences recorded, confirming the weapon and by the time frame 1 March – 31 February.

*Please note that the 2017-2018 data includes the time range 1 March 2017 – 31 March 2018.

Weapon	2013 –2014	2014 - 2015	2015 - 2016	2016 - 2017	2017 – 2018*	Grand Total
Axe	9	8	12	6	8	43
Blade	34	20	26	22	42	144
Knife	285	304	337	263	345	1534
Machete	1	3	4	1	3	12
Razor Blade		1	2	2	2	7
Scissors	5	6	6	4	3	24

Sword	7	3	9	2	1	22
Grand Total	341	345	396	300	404	1786

Police forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide crime statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the crime data. It should be noted that for these reasons this force's response to your questions should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you may receive.

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