



SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

REQUEST NUMBER: FOI Request 001261-17

REQUEST DETAILS:

1. *"The number of burglaries in Newmarket in 2016, divided by street and month.*
2. *The number of burglaries in Newmarket in 2015, divided by street and month.*
3. *All of which indicating the type of burglary and whether they've been solved or not."*

RESPONSE:

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

This response is correct as of 25 January 2017

A search has been completed of the Constabulary's crime system for all offences recorded of burglary for the 2015 and 2016 calendar years.

The information was then filtered to include only Newmarket offences.

The information provided below confirms the total number of burglary offences recorded by the Constabulary, by year, location and outcome.

Please note some of the street names have been redacted from the disclosure due to them containing less than 8 houses in the street. All of this data has been grouped together in the line 'Exempt S.40'.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires that Suffolk Constabulary, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) is to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) States that fact
- (b) Specifies the exemption(s) in question and
- (c) States (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption(s) applies.

The information is exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption;

Section 40(2) – Personal Data



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Section 40 is an absolute exemption and applies to third party personal data. This would not be released under the FOIA unless there is a strong public interest. This is because any release would breach Data Protection Principles contained within the Data Protection Act 1998.

One of the main differences between the Data Protection Act and the Freedom of Information Act is that any information released under FOI is released into the public domain, not just to the individual requesting the information. As such, any release that identifies an individual through releasing their personal data, even third party personal data, is exempted unless there is a strong public interest in its release. The public interest is not what interests the public but what benefits the community as a whole.

Personal data is defined under the Data Protection Act 1998 as data that is biographical in nature, has the applicant as its focus and/or affects the data subject's privacy in his or her personal, professional or business life.

ICO guidelines recommend that where an offence could potentially be linked to a specific domestic property, it should be treated as though it were personal data.

The Information Commissioners Office baseline figure for disclosure of street level crime statistics is 8 homes. It is therefore anticipated that any number less than this will increase the likelihood of an individual being identified from the disclosure.

It can have an impact on an individual's privacy where a link can be established between the crime, location and an individual, allowing an identification to take place.

This is an absolute, class based exemption and, as such, there is no requirement for the public interest test.

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.

Please be aware that the information provided/researched from the 19 October 2015 has been extracted from the Athena crime system. The information provided is subject to change as processes are amended to ensure accurate and precise crime recording.