



**SUFFOLK  
CONSTABULARY**  
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## **Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 001330-18**

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

1. *“Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to know, of all the violent incidents involving a knife or sharp instrument where the victim is aged under 25 that were recorded (in the time frames below), how many:*
  - *led to arrest (one or multiple)*
  - *led to charges being made (to one person or multiple people)*
  - *led to no action being taken/went unsolved*

*The time frames I would like this information for are:*

- *April 2017 – March 2018*
  - *April 2016 – March 2017*
  - *April 2015 – March 2016*
  - *April 2014 – March 2015*
  - *April 2013 – March 2014*
2. *Please could you provide a percentage for each category (i.e. what percentage of all violent incidents involving a knife or sharp instrument where the victim is aged under 25 recorded in the requested years led to arrest?/led to charges being made?/went unsolved?) as well as the figures.*
  3. *Could you also please provide the same breakdown but only for the incidents of murder or manslaughter caused by a knife or sharp instrument.*
  4. *Could you also tell me how many violent incidents involving a knife or sharp instrument where the victim is aged under 25 that were recorded overall in the time periods I listed (note that I mean 1st April-31st March for each).”*

## **Response to your Request**

The response provided below is correct as of 30 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'.

### **Table 1**

Provides the information for questions 1 and 4.

Table is broken down by financial year to include the method used, recorded outcome, number of victims under the age of 25 and if the suspect was arrested.

Percentages are not held, and we are not required under the FOI Act to create new information.

### **Table 2**

Provides the information relevant to question 3.

Table is broken down by financial year, full offence title, outcome and if the suspect was arrested.

**Please note that the constabulary changed crime systems on 19 October 2015 to Athena from our previous legacy system CIS. The data provided is included from both systems, and cannot be compared due to the differences in recording the information.**

**Table 1**

Time Frame	Arrested	Method Used	Outcome	25 Years Old and Under	Not recorded	Grand Total
2013/2014	Not Recorded	Axe	A - Charge/summons		1	1
			N - Other	1		1
			Not recorded	1		1
		Blade	A - Charge/summons	2	1	3
			B - Caution	1		1
			Not recorded	2		2
			X - No PCE		1	1
		Knife	A - Charge/summons	1	18	19
			B - Caution	2	6	8
			N - Other		1	1
			Not recorded	24	11	35
			Type 15 - Named Suspect Identified: Victim Supports Police Action But Evidential Difficulties Prevent Further Action	1		1
		Scissors	A - Charge/summons	2		2
			Not recorded	1	1	2
		Sword	A - Charge/summons	1		1
			N - Other	1		1
	<b>Not Recorded Total</b>			<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>80</b>
	<b>Yes</b>	Axe	A - Charge/summons	1		1
			Not recorded	1		1



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		Knife	A - Charge/summons	14		14
			B - Caution	6		6
			Not recorded	11		11
	<b>Yes Total</b>			<b>33</b>		<b>33</b>
<b>2013/2014 Total</b>				<b>73</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>113</b>
<b>2014/2015</b>	Not Recorded	Axe	A - Charge/summons		1	1
		Blade	Not recorded	4		4
		Knife	A - Charge/summons	2	10	12
			B - Caution		1	1
			N - Other	5		5
			Not recorded	23	10	33
		Scissors	N - Other	1		1
			Not recorded	2		2
		Sword	Not recorded	1		1
	<b>Not Recorded Total</b>			<b>38</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>60</b>
	Yes	Blade	Not recorded	1		1
		Knife	A - Charge/summons	19	1	20
			B - Caution	1		1
			Not recorded	13		13
			X - No PCE	1		1
		Machete	Not recorded	1		1
	<b>Yes Total</b>			<b>36</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>2014/2015 Total</b>				<b>74</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>2015/2016</b>	Not Recorded	Axe	A - Charge/summons		2	2



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	Blade	Not recorded	2	1	3
	Knife	A - Charge/summons	1	4	5
		N - Other	4		4
		Not recorded	22	17	39
		Type 1 - Charged/Summoned/Postal Requisition	1		1
		Type 10 - Formal Action Against Offender is not in the Public Interest (Police)	1		1
		Type 15 - Named Suspect Identified: Victim Supports Police Action But Evidential Difficulties Prevent Further Action	6		6
		Type 16 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties Prevent Further Action: Victim Does Not Support (Or Has Withdrawn Support From) Police Action	3		3
		Type 18 - Investigation Complete; No Suspect Identified. Crime Investigated As Far As Reasonably Possible-Case Closed Pending Further Investigative Opportunities Becoming Available	2	1	3
		Type 20 - Further action resulting from the crime report will be undertaken by another body or agency subject to the victim (or person acting on their behalf) being made aware of the act to be taken	3		3
		Type 5 - Offender has died		1	1
	Razor	Not recorded	1		1
	Scissors	Not recorded	1		1



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		Sword	A - Charge/summons		1	1
			Not recorded	1	1	2
	<b>Not Recorded Total</b>			<b>48</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>76</b>
	Yes	Knife	A - Charge/summons	11	1	12
			B - Caution	2		2
			N - Other	3		3
			Not recorded	6		6
			Type 1 - Charged/Summoned/Postal Requisition	13		13
			Type 10 - Formal Action Against Offender is not in the Public Interest (Police)	1		1
			Type 15 - Named Suspect Identified: Victim Supports Police Action But Evidential Difficulties Prevent Further Action	2	1	3
			Type 16 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties Prevent Further Action: Victim Does Not Support (Or Has Withdrawn Support From) Police Action	3		3
			Type 18 - Investigation Complete; No Suspect Identified. Crime Investigated As Far As Reasonably Possible-Case Closed Pending Further Investigative Opportunities Becoming Available	2		2
			Type 21 - Further investigation resulting from crime report which could provide evidence sufficient to support formal action against the suspect is not in the public interest - police decision.	1		1



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			Type 3 - Caution Adult	1		1
	<b>Yes Total</b>			<b>45</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>2015/2016 Total</b>				<b>93</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>123</b>
<b>2016/2017</b>	Not Recorded	Knife	Type 1 - Charged/Summoned/Postal Requisition	1		1
			Type 14 - Evidential Difficulties Victim Based-Suspect Not Identified: Crime Confirmed But The Victim Either Declines Or Unable To Support Further Police Investigation To Identify The Offender	2		2
			Type 15 - Named Suspect Identified: Victim Supports Police Action But Evidential Difficulties Prevent Further Action	1		1
			Type 16 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties Prevent Further Action: Victim Does Not Support (Or Has Withdrawn Support From) Police Action	2		2
			Type 18 - Investigation Complete; No Suspect Identified. Crime Investigated As Far As Reasonably Possible-Case Closed Pending Further Investigative Opportunities Becoming Available	5		5
			Type 20 - Further action resulting from the crime report will be undertaken by another body or agency subject to the victim (or person acting on their behalf) being made aware of the act to be taken	2		2
			Type 8 - Community resolution (Crime)	1		1
		Scissors	Not recorded	1		1



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		Stab	Type 14 - Evidential Difficulties Victim Based-Suspect Not Identified: Crime Confirmed But The Victim Either Declines Or Unable To Support Further Police Investigation To Identify The Offender	1		1
	<b>Not Recorded Total</b>			<b>16</b>		<b>16</b>
	Yes	Knife	Not recorded	3		3
			Type 1 - Charged/Summonsed/Postal Requisition	7	3	10
			Type 16 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties Prevent Further Action: Victim Does Not Support (Or Has Withdrawn Support From) Police Action	6	1	7
			Type 3 - Caution Adult	1		1
		Stab	Not recorded	1		1
			Type 1 - Charged/Summonsed/Postal Requisition	1		1
	<b>Yes Total</b>			<b>19</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>2016/2017 Total</b>				<b>35</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>2017/2018</b>	Not Recorded	Axe	Not recorded		1	1
		Bottle - Broken	Not recorded	3		3
		Knife	Not recorded	15	3	18
			Type 10 - Formal Action Against Offender is not in the Public Interest (Police)	1		1
			Type 11 - Prosecution Prevented-Named Suspect Identified But Is Below The Age Of Criminal Responsibility		1	1
			Type 14 - Evidential Difficulties Victim Based-	1		1





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			Suspect Not Identified: Crime Confirmed But The Victim Either Declines Or Unable To Support Further Police Investigation To Identify The Offender			
			Type 15 - Named Suspect Identified: Victim Supports Police Action But Evidential Difficulties Prevent Further Action	1		1
			Type 18 - Investigation Complete; No Suspect Identified. Crime Investigated As Far As Reasonably Possible-Case Closed Pending Further Investigative Opportunities Becoming Available	2	1	3
	<b>Not Recorded Total</b>			<b>23</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>29</b>
	<b>Yes</b>	Bottle - Broken	Type 1 - Charged/Summoned/Postal Requisition	1		1
		Knife	Not recorded	13	1	14
			Type 1 - Charged/Summoned/Postal Requisition	2		2
			Type 15 - Named Suspect Identified: Victim Supports Police Action But Evidential Difficulties Prevent Further Action	1		1
			Type 1A - Charged/Summons - alternate offence. Offender has been charged under the alternate offence rule.	2		2
		Stab	Not recorded	1		1
	<b>Yes Total</b>			<b>20</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>2017/2018 Total</b>				<b>43</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>318</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>422</b>

**Table 2**

<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Arrested?</b>	<b>Full Offence Title</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Total</b>
2013/2014	Not Recorded	Murder of persons aged one year or over	A - Charge/summons	1
	Yes	Attempted murder	Not recorded	1
<b>2013/2014 Total</b>				<b>2</b>
2014/2015	Yes	Attempted murder	A - Charge/summons	1
<b>2014/2015 Total</b>				<b>1</b>
2015/2016	Not Recorded	Murder of persons aged one year or over	A - Charge/summons	1
<b>2015/2016 Total</b>				<b>1</b>
2016/2017	Yes	Attempted murder	Not recorded	1
		Murder - of persons aged 1 year or over	Type 1 - Charged/Summonsed/Postal Requisition	1
<b>2016/2017 Total</b>				<b>2</b>
2017/2018	Yes	Attempted murder	Type 1 - Charged/Summonsed/Postal Requisition	1
<b>2017/2018 Total</b>				<b>1</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>7</b>



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***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.***



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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.



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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