



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 001477-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 25 April 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"I am requesting the number of acid attacks which took place in the calendar year of 2017, as well as 2016 and 2015.*
2. *I also request information on each attack broken down by its Home Office description, crime outcome, the substance/s used, whether it was domestic related, the name and age of victim and the name and age of the suspect/s."*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 1 May 2018.

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

A search has been completed of the Constabulary's crime system for all offences recorded which contain the words acid, corrosive substance or ammonia. Each offence was then reviewed to establish whether the assault related to an individual having the substance thrown at them.

The table provided below confirms the number of investigations recorded by the Constabulary, including the gender of the victims and recorded outcome.

Please note that there will be one victim per investigation and there were no offences in 2015.

None of the investigations had a domestic marker.

The names of the victims and suspects have not been included as a result of exemptions within the Act.

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(s);

Section 40 – Personal Data

Section 40(2) 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.

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

Year	Offence	Substance	Victim Age	Suspect(s) Age	Outcome
2016	Attempted - Wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm	Unknown Liquid	30	29 40 48 34	Named suspect: Victim supports police action but evidential difficulties prevent further action
	Assault occasioning ABH	Unknown	48	Unknown	Investigation complete, no suspect identified
2017	Causing explosions, sending explosive substance or throwing corrosive fluids with intent to do grievous bodily harm	Ammonia	57	22	Named Suspect identified: Evidential difficulties
	Assault occasioning ABH	Bleach	54	Unknown	Investigation complete, no suspect identified
	Robbery	Liquid irritant	19	14 21 16	Under Investigation
	Robbery	Irritant (not corrosive)	16	14 21 16	Under Investigation
	Assault occasioning ABH	Irritant (not corrosive)	17	16 24	Named Suspect identified: Evidential difficulties



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Wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm	Alkaline	30	25 25	Named Suspect identified: Evidential difficulties
Attempted - Wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm	Corrosive Liquid	59	Unknown	Type 18 - Investigation Complete; No Suspect Identified.
Wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm	Drain cleaner	43	47	Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties

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