



11<sup>th</sup> June 2018

## Freedom of Information Request Reference N<sup>o</sup>: FOI 001615/18

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

For each question below, please can you provide data for the last calendar year (2017) and the previous calendar year (2016).

For each question below, please include reported incidents of both attempted break-ins and burglaries, as well as successful break-ins and burglaries

- 1 How many domestic break ins were there in your area? Please also provide information concerning where these break ins took place (postcode / town), what time, day of the week and month they took place in
- 2 How many domestic break ins took place in the following types of property – flat, terraced house, semi-detached house, detached house, bungalow?
- 3 How many domestic break ins took place when none of the victims were in the property i.e. the house was unoccupied?
- 4 What percentage of the domestic break ins reported in your area resulted in an arrest?
- 5 How many domestic break ins took place in a property which had any of the following security systems in place: Alarm system, CCTV, smart home cameras, motion sensors.
- 6 Of those domestic break ins that took place in a property with a security system in place (see above), what percentage resulted in an arrest?

## Response to your Request

When responding to a request for information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, a public authority is not obliged to provide information if the authority estimates that the cost of the retrieval of the information requested would be in excess of £450 (equivalent to 18 hours work).

The costs criteria relates to a request in its entirety, which means that if we cannot retrieve all of the information requested within the costs limit, we are not obliged to retrieve *any* of the information requested.

The Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies estimates that to retrieve all the information you have requested for both forces would exceed cost in excess of £450 (per force).

Research has been undertaken of recorded crimes for the offence of Burglary for the period requested. For Norfolk this has returned 5,609 lines of data. Of these, 4,518 do not detail the premises type within a specific field. For Suffolk, there are 4,477 lines of data and 3,600 of these do not detail the premises type. Therefore it would be necessary to review the crime freetext fields for these crimes to see if the information is recorded.

The crimes would need to be further researched in order to respond to the remainder of your questions.

Due to the number of records, based on an initial 5 minutes each, this would equate to over 650 hours of research. It would take considerably longer to research the remainder of the information requested.

As detailed above, this would be a significant task which would exceed the appropriate limit for dealing with a Freedom of Information request, in terms of costs, and therefore Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act applies.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 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 2004, defines the ‘appropriate limit’ for the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies as £450 for each Constabulary, and specifies that this sum equates to 18 hours work at a standard rate of £25 per hour.

In accordance with Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000), this serves as a Refusal Notice for your request.

#### Advice and Assistance

Due to the volume of records that would need to be reviewed in order to respond to your request, even reducing to just one year of data, would still exceed costs.

The number of crimes for each Constabulary, by year, has been provided below:-

	2016	2017
NORFOLK	1,418	1,755
SUFFOLK	1,317	1,520

This response will be published on the Constabularies web-site under the Freedom of Information pages:-

<https://www.norfolk.police.uk/about-us/our-data/disclosure-log>  
<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/services/freedom-information/disclosure-logs>

Should you have any further queries concerning this request, please contact Amanda Gibson, 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  
Norfolk Constabulary  
Operations and Communications Centre  
Jubilee House  
Falconers Chase  
Wymondham  
Norfolk NR18 0WW  
OR  
Email: [freedomofinformation@norfolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@norfolk.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](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