



9th July 2018

Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 001950/18

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

- 1 How many murders have there been each year, since 1970?
- 2 How many unsolved murders do you have on your records (dating back as far as possible)?
- 3 In regards to the unsolved homicides, please could you provide:
 - (1) Their name,
 - (2) Age,
 - (3) Gender,
 - (4) Ethnicity
 - (5) Address/postcode,
 - (6) Occupation (if known)
 - (7) Date of incident,
 - (8) Cause of death,
 - (9) Reason why it has gone unsolved,
 - (10) Whether anyone was tried for the incident but acquitted/found not guilty
 - (11) How long the case has been cold for? (I.e. when was it passed to the major review team?)
- 4 Do you have a major crime review team, or a specific cold-case investigation team?
- 5 How many staff are on these teams/units?
- 6 What is your policy in relation to reviewing unsolved murders?

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 8th June 2018.

Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies have located the following information as relevant to your request.

- Q1 Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies do not hold statistical information regarding recorded offences of murder going back to 1970. Figures from 2003 onwards are available via the link provided below:-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-recorded-crime-open-data-tables>

Under Section 21(1) of the Freedom of Information Act (2000), public authorities are not required to provide information that is reasonably accessible to the public by other means, therefore in accordance with Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000), this serves as a Refusal Notice for this part of your request.

Q2&3 A review has been conducted by the Constabulary's Major Investigation Team for all unsolved murder cases currently under review by the Constabularies.

Information concerning unsolved homicides is provided in the attached table, split by force.

The information includes the name, age and ethnicity of the victim, date and cause of death, where the victim lived and a brief summary of the investigation.

Please note that the lines highlight in yellow relate to those that where is has not been wholly established whether they are unsolved murders for the following reasons:

- They are missing persons, albeit, have been investigated as a potential homicide;
- They are classified as double jeopardy cases; basically means that person(s) have been charged with the crime and were dismissed before any trial or having stood trial were acquitted of the charge.
- Or are unexplained deaths again investigated as a potential homicide.

Q4 Norfolk and Suffolk share a Major Crime Review Team who specialise in cold case reviews.

Q5 There are 3 members of staff within the major crime review team. The 3 staff equate to 2.32 Full Time Equivalent.

Q6 The National Policy is that cases should be reviewed every two years although this is not always achievable. The senior review officer closely monitors cases and if there is a new significant piece of information received, a new forensic opportunity or line of solvability, that case will take priority.

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*

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 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