



## **Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 002036-18**

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

1. *“How many police stop and searches were there in each of 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 to date?”*
2. *How many knives were seized in each of 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 to date?*
3. *How many stabbings were there in each of 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 to date?”*

### **Response to your Request**

The response provided below is correct as of 26 June 2018

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

In relation to your request for information and in accordance with Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), this response serves as a formal notification of refusal for your request. Suffolk Constabulary does not hold, for the purposes of FOIA, the information you require in a retrievable format.

It is estimated that to attempt to retrieve all of the information you require would take a considerable amount of retrieval time, which would exceed 18 hours. This would exceed the appropriate limit for dealing with Freedom of Information requests, in terms of costs and therefore Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 applies.

The Constabulary is unable to confirm the number of persons stabbed for the time frame specified. Although we can extract the number of offences that contain the word “knife, stab, bladed article, axe, broken bottle” in the MO, we cannot confirm whether an individual has actually been stabbed without reading through the text of each offence.

For the time frame in question there were 1,187 violence against the person offences recorded. Each would need to be reviewed to establish whether an individual was injured as a direct result of a bladed instrument being used.

Considering a search of 3 mounts per crime, it would take in excess of 60 hours to extract the information to answer this part of the request.



Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 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, defines the ‘appropriate limit’ for the Suffolk Constabulary as £450 and specifies that this sum equates to 18 hours work at a standard rate of £25 per hour.

In accordance with Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter serves as a refusal notice for this part of your request.

By requesting *all* information your request is too broad to be complied with within the £450 limit imposed on Freedom of Information requests.

Although excess cost removes the Force’s obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

The total number of stop and searches conducted by Suffolk Constabulary for the 2013 – 2018 calendar years is provided in the table below:

Year	Total
2013	5528
2014	5340
2015	4043
2016	2408
2017	1755
2018	624
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>19,698</b>

The total number of knives seized by Suffolk Constabulary is provided in the table below:

Year	Total
2013	423
2014	408
2015	403
2016	443
2017	681
2018	297



<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,655</b>
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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.



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