

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 002330-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 4 July 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"The number of acid attacks that happened in your force area in 2015, 2016, 2017 and up to now in 2018.*
2. *How many, if any, "acid response kits" have been issued to officers and how many of these have been used."*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 9 July 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 information provided relates to all offences recorded and excludes any non-crimes.

1. The table below provides the number of investigations recorded by calendar year:

Year	Number of acid attacks
2015	0
2016	2
2017	8
2018	2

2. Suffolk Constabulary has not issued acid response kits to officers.

As part of NPCC led national work to improve our response to this crime type, Suffolk constabulary have circulated bespoke personal safety and first aid guidance relevant to corrosive substance attacks to first responders.

It is important to note that since September 2017, we have adopted joint operating principles to ensure that there is a tri- emergency service response to reports of corrosive attacks, most



notably ensuring that the fire and rescue service are alerted to assist with rapid decontamination of victims/scenes.

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