



Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 002399-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies on the 8 July 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"How many complaints of dog bites have been made to Suffolk police in each of past 3 years?"*
2. *How many of these bites have taken place on dog owners property in each of the years?*
3. *How many of these bites resulted in charges under section 3 & 4 of the Dangerous Dogs Act?
Please show figures separately against on property and off property*
4. *How many of these bites were on trespassers?*
5. *I would appreciate each answer also split between Suffolk and Norfolk*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 20 July 2018

Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies have considered your request for information and our 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. The Constabularies do not hold, for the purposes of FOIA, all of 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, exceeding 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.

It is considered that to provide an answer to your request will take in excess of 36 hours to provide the information. The Constabularies are unable to establish the number of offences that have occurred on or off the dog owners property as this level of information is not recorded in a searchable field. It is quite possible the detail will be included within the crime freetext however; we would need to review each offence to establish an answer to these questions.

Considering there are over 1000 individual cases to review, the Constabularies consider it would take in excess of 70 hours to extract the data requested.

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 Constabularies as £450 and specifies that this sum equates to 18 hours work per force at a standard rate of £25 per hour. This equates to 36 hours of work, or £900, for joint responses.

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 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 offences recorded by the Constabularies is provided in the table below, by offence title, year and Force.

Suffolk				
Offence	2015	2016	2017	2018
Attempted - Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place injuring any person		1		
Attempted - Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control injuring any person or assistance dog		1		1
Attempted - Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place and injure any person	1	1		
Dangerous dog causing injury in a public place	42			
Owner allow dog to enter place & cause injury	2			
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place injuring any person	9	132	89	
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control injuring any person or assistance dog	10	67	164	118
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place and injure any person	3	21	18	
Grand Total	67	223	271	119

Norfolk				
Offence	2015	2016	2017	2018
Attempted - Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control injuring any person or assistance dog			1	

Attempted - Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place and injure any person			1	
Dangerous dog causing injury in a public place	22			
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place injuring any person	12	116	86	
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control injuring any person or assistance dog	15	91	180	112
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place and injure any person		17	8	
Grand Total	49	224	276	112

The total number of offences that resulted in a charge is provided in the table below, by offence, year and force. Please note that this is not the only available positive outcome. Additionally, some of these offences may still be under investigation.

Suffolk				
Offence	2015	2016	2017	2018
Dangerous dog causing injury in a public place	1			
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place injuring any person		8	3	
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control injuring any person or assistance dog		4	6	2
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place and injure any person		1	1	
Grand Total	1	13	10	2

Norfolk				
Offence	2015	2016	2017	2018
Dangerous dog causing injury in a public place	5			
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place injuring any person	1	10	3	
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control injuring any person or assistance dog	3	9	9	3
Grand Total	9	19	12	3

Should you have any further queries concerning this request, please contact Clair Pack, 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
Suffolk Constabulary
Police Headquarters
Martlesham Heath
Ipswich
Suffolk
IP5 3QS
OR
Email: information@suffolk.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