



31<sup>st</sup> July 2018

## Freedom of Information Request Reference N<sup>o</sup>: FOI 002447/18

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies on the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

I hereby respectfully request disclosure under the Freedom Of Information Act 2000 of the numbers of Police Officers within your force who have experienced a lower limb injury either on or off duty over the last 3 years from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2018.

This should be sourced from the appropriate Injury on Duty form(s) and/or return to work following sickness forms used in Force. The data required for each instance is as follows:

- Total number of officers this request relates to
- Area of lower limb affected (eg: Knee, ankle, achilles etc)
- Total number & type of incidents (eg: Assault, fall, strain, sporting activity etc)
- The length of sickness reported following the injury or medically retired

For example (in table format);

Total number of Officers: 100

Area effected: 50 x knee / 25 x ankle / 20 x achilles / 5 x foot

Type of incidents: 50 x Assaults / 25 x fall / 5 x strain / 5 x sports related

Total sickness per type: Assaults - 20 x days sickness (1 x medically retired) / fall x 5 days sickness / strains - 5 x days sickness / Sports - 20 x days sickness

## 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).

The Health and Safety Department has undertaken research of recorded lower limb injuries suffered by Police Officers. Whilst they can provide much of the requested information, the figures are not linked to the Constabularies absence records. The sickness absence figures would have to be checked for each officer who has had a lower limb injury. This would significantly exceed 18 hours for each Constabulary.

This would therefore 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

Although excess cost removes Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relevant to your request, which was 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.

<b>NORFOLK</b>	
<b>2015/16</b>	
<b>Area Affected</b>	<b>Number</b>
Achilles	3
Ankle	9
Knee	57
Leg	17
Foot	7
Shin	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>Type of Incident</b>	<b>Number</b>
Assault	18
Arrest	38
Slip / Trip / Fall	17
Lifting / Handling	2
Contact with Moving Object	2
Contact with Stationary Object	1
Domestic Animal	1
Road Traffic Collision	1
Training	12
Trapped / Crushed	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>2016/17</b>	

<b>Area Affected</b>	<b>Number</b>
Ankle	8
Knee	49
Leg	32
Foot	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>Type of Incident</b>	<b>Number</b>
Assault	22
Arrest	32
Slip / Trip / Fall	13
Lifting / Handling	4
Contact with Moving Object	2
Contact with Stationary Object	3
Domestic Animal	6
Road Traffic Collision	2
Training	7
Trapped / Crushed	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>2017/18</b>	
<b>Area Affected</b>	<b>Number</b>
Ankle	18
Knee	35
Leg	76
Foot	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>134</b>
<b>Type of Incident</b>	<b>Number</b>
Assault	45
Arrest	51
Slip / Trip / Fall	10
Lifting / Handling / Twisting	4
Contact with Moving Object	1
Contact with Stationary Object	3
Domestic Animal	9
Road Traffic Collision	2
Training	7
Fall from Height	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>134</b>

<b>SUFFOLK</b>	
<b>2015/16</b>	
<b>Area Affected</b>	<b>Number</b>
Ankle	6
Knee	28
Leg	7
Foot	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Type of Incident</b>	<b>Number</b>
Assault	2
Arrest	14
Slip / Trip / Fall	12
Fall from Height	1
Contact with Moving Object	1
Domestic Animal	1
Road Traffic Collision	2
Training	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>2016/17</b>	
<b>Area Affected</b>	<b>Number</b>
Ankle	6
Knee	19
Leg	13
Foot	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Type of Incident</b>	<b>Number</b>
Assault	12
Arrest	14
Slip / Trip / Fall	7
Contact with Moving Object	2
Domestic Animal	1
Fall from Height	1
Training	2
Road Traffic Collision	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>2017/18</b>	
<b>Area Affected</b>	<b>Number</b>
Ankle	6
Knee	16
Leg	31

Foot	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Type of Incident</b>	<b>Number</b>
Assault	24
Arrest	13
Slip / Trip / Fall	3
Contact with Stationary Object	1
Domestic Animal	5
Road Traffic Collision	2
Training	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>

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