



**SUFFOLK  
CONSTABULARY**  
*Taking pride in keeping Suffolk safe*

**Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 002600-18**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 23 July 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

*“Please answer all the questions below for the following location and dates:*

*Location: Newmarket Racecourse, Westfield House, The Links, Newmarket CB8 0TG*

*Dates:*

*2013*

- Sat 4th May*
- Sun 5th May*
- Thu 11th July*
- Fri 12th July*
- Sat 13th July*
- Thu 26th Sep*
- Fri 27th Sep*
- Sat 28th Sep*
- Fri 11th Oct*
- Sat 12th Oct*

*2014*

- Sat 3rd May*
- Sun 4th May*
- Thu 10th July*
- Fri 11th July*
- Sat 12th July*
- Thu 25th Sep*
- Fri 26th Sep*
- Sat 27th Sep*
- Fri 17th Oct*
- Sat 18th Oct*

*2015*

- Sat 2nd May*
- Sun 3rd May*
- Thu 9th July*
- Fri 10th July*
- Sat 11th July*
- Thu 24th Sep*



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-Fri 25th Sep  
-Sat 26th Sep  
-Fri 9th Oct  
-Sat 10th Oct

2016

-Sat 30th Apr  
-Sun 1st May  
-Thu 7th July  
-Fri 8th July  
-Sat 9th July  
-Thu 22nd Sep  
-Fri 23rd Sep  
-Sat 24th Sep  
-Fri 7th Oct  
-Sat 8th Oct

2017

-Sat 6th May  
-Sun 7th May  
-Thu 13th July  
-Fri 14th July  
-Sat 15th July  
-Thu 28th Sep  
-Fri 29th Sep  
-Sat 30th Sep  
-Fri 13th Oct  
-Sat 14th Oct

2018

-Sat 5th May  
-Sun 6th May  
-Thu 12th July  
-Fri 13th July  
-Sat 14th July

- 1) *Please provide the number of reports of crime/criminal activity/criminal behaviour at that location on each of the individual dates provided.*
- 2) *Please breakdown the number of those crimes by type/broad category (e.g. drug offences, theft, assault etc.) for each of the individual dates provided.*

- 3) *Please provide the number of arrests made at that location on each of the individual dates provided.*
- 4) *Please breakdown the number of those arrests by type/broad category (e.g. drug offences, theft, assault etc.) for each of the individual dates provided.*
- 5) *Please provide the total number of officers deployed to police the racing events at that location on each of the individual dates provided*

### **Response to your Request**

The response provided below is correct as of 2 August 2018

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

A search has been completed using our crime management system for any crimes recorded at Newmarket Races using the requested postcode of CB8 0TG, for the specified dates above.

In addition, we have also carried out a search using postcode CB8 0TF, which is the address for the Rowley Mile stand.

***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.***

1 – 4

The below table provides the crimes retrieved at each location, date, offence class and if any arrests were made:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Offence</b>	<b>Arrest</b>
04/05/2013	Rowley Mile Stands	Theft Other	No
04/05/2013	Rowley Mile Stands	Theft Other	No
05/05/2013	Rowley Mile Stands	Theft Other	No
03/05/2014	Rowley Mile Stands	Criminal Damage	Yes – One
17/10/2014	Rowley Mile Stands	Violence Against Person	Yes - One

02/05/2015	Rowley Mile Stands	Crime Other	No
02/05/2015	CB8 OTG – Cambridge Road	Crime Other	No
03/05/2015	Rowley Mile Stands	Violence Against Person	No
09/10/2015	Rowley Mile Stands	Theft Other	No
10/10/2015	Rowley Mile Stands	Theft Other	No
30/04/2016	Rowley Mile Stands	Theft	No
30/04/2016	Rowley Mile Stands	Theft	No
30/04/2016	Rowley Mile Stands	Theft	No
30/04/2016	Rowley Mile Stands	Theft	No
08/10/2016	Rowley Mile Stands	Burglary	No
06/05/2017	Rowley Mile Stands	Violence Against The Person	No
14/10/2017	Rowley Mile Stands	Theft	No
05/05/2018	Rowley Mile Stands	Violence Against The Person	No
05/05/2018	Rowley Mile Stands	Violence Against The Person	No
06/05/2018	Rowley Mile Stands	Drug Offences	Yes - One

5. In respect the number of officer deployed to police racing events, this information has not been provided as a result of exemptions within the Act. Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at s1(1)(a) is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held. The second duty at s1 (1)(b) is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held.

Suffolk Constabulary can confirm that they do hold the information requested however it has not been disclosed due to exemptions within the Act.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires that the Constabularies, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) is to provide you the applicant with a notice ban which:

- (a) States that fact
- (b) Specifies the exemption(s) in question and
- (c) States (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption(s) applies.

The information is exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption(s);

**Section 31(a)(b)(c) – Law Enforcement**

Section 31 is a qualified and prejudice based exemption and I am therefore obliged to articulate the harm in this information being disclosed and assess the public interest in disclosure.



### **Harm in disclosure**

Information concerning the strengths and capabilities of Constabularies would not be disclosed if to do so would prejudice policing across the county and impact negatively on resources.

It is considered that provision of officer numbers will allow people to draw conclusions as to the perceived level of police officers required to police specific racing events. This in turn could identify to the criminal fraternity occasions where the Constabulary will be at its most vulnerable based on uniformed officer deployment figures alone, potentially increasing the probability of crime being committed for those occasions where a police presence is reduced.

Provision of this information will allow individuals to ascertain those racing events where the police numbers are at their lowest. This would undermine the law enforcement capabilities of the Constabulary and therefore it is confirmed that Section 31 is engaged.

### **Factors favouring disclosure**

Police officer numbers differ depending on operational demand at the time.

Information that relates directly to the operational effectiveness and efficiencies of the Constabularies is a positive factor favouring disclosure. The public have a right to know that they are being protected in an appropriate and diligent manner.

Public knowledge of Constabularies will ensure informed public debate, retaining the openness and transparency.

### **Factors favouring non-disclosure**

Disclosure of information that can affect the current and future law enforcement capabilities of Constabularies will always favour non-disclosure. On this occasion, providing information concerning police resources at individual racing events will allow for comparisons to be made. This in turn will allow for the determination as to the strength of front line police officers at future like events, invariably providing criminals with advanced knowledge of the Constabularies capabilities.

Although it can be argued that these figures are historical and the likelihood is that future patterns will be subject to change depending on operational requirements at the time, provision of data at such a low level will allow individuals to determine perceived officer numbers at future like racing events. This will be subject to change depending on the operational requirement; however it would provide a good basis for an approximate value to be determined.



Although public knowledge of the Constabularies capabilities is a positive factor, this is not unlimited and there are aspects of policing that must remain confidential.

### **Balancing test**

Public knowledge of how funds are being spent and assurance that the Police service are doing all they can to ensure public safety is maintained, is always a positive factor in disclosure.

On balance however, disclosure of this nature is more likely to have the opposite affect causing the criminal fraternity to have prior knowledge of Police operational capabilities at racing events, compromising the prevention and detection of crime and administration of justice.

The Police service has a duty to ensure public safety is never compromised and disclosures under FOI should always ensure this is maintained.

It is the Constabularies decision that disclosure lies in non-disclosure and the application of the exemption is maintained.

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