



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 003200-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 3 September 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *“How many people have been arrested on suspicion of drink driving each year for the last ten years?”*
2. *How many people have been charged with drink driving each year for the last ten years?*
3. *How many people have been arrested on suspicion of drug driving each year for the last ten years?*
4. *How many people have been charged with drug driving each year for the last ten years?*
5. *What was the average reading of alcohol in 100ml of breath each year for the last ten years?*
6. *How many people have been charged with failing to provide a specimen of breath, blood or urine for analysis each year for the last ten years?*

This information should be broken down by arresting station.”

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 18 September 2018.

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

Information concerning arrest data prior to October 2015 is no longer available for bulk data extraction, although the system does remain in place. In order to extract data for the time frame prior to October 2015, would require us to manually review all arrest records to establish numbers and of those, numbers of persons charged.

Given there are many thousands of records in any one year, it would take well in excess of 18 hours to extract this information.

Additionally, the Constabulary does not record average readings of alcohol in breath however, the information is only contained within individuals custody records and we would therefore be required to review each to establish what the individual reading was.



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.

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 persons arrested from October 2015 to date, is as follows:

Arresting Offence	2015	2016	2017	2018
Driving - Causing Death By Careless Driving When Under The Influence Of Drink Or Drugs			1	
Driving - Excess Alcohol	120	618	619	432
Driving - Excess Drugs	65	489	639	476
Driving - Fail to Provide Breath Test	16	65	58	33
Driving - In Charge - Excess Alcohol	7	20	21	22
Driving - In Charge - Unfit Through Drink/Drugs	7	26	12	16
Driving - Unfit Through Drink/Drugs	20	47	63	47
Grand Total	235	1265	1413	1026

The total number of persons arrested and subsequently charged, is as follows, noting that some investigations will still be live.

Arresting Offence	2015	2016	2017	2018
Driving - Excess Alcohol	102	515	538	347
Driving - Excess Drugs	45	316	406	159
Driving - Fail to Provide Breath Test	15	55	45	25
Driving - In Charge - Excess Alcohol	6	15	16	14
Driving - In Charge - Unfit Through Drink/Drugs	6	14	8	8
Driving - Unfit Through Drink/Drugs	13	27	39	21
Grand Total	187	942	1052	574

The Constabulary does not have an arresting offence for failing to supply a specimen for analysis, we only have records for failure to provide a breath test.

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