



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 003543-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 28 September 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

1) *Please state the number of offences recorded of sexting, that is offences under Section 1 of the Protection of Children Act 1978 or Section 160 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, recorded by your force in each of the following calendar years.*

- i) 2012*
- ii) 2013*
- iii) 2014*
- iv) 2015*
- v) 2016*
- vi) 2017*
- vii) 2018 to 13.09.18*

2) *Please state the number of offences recorded of sexting, where the offender was under the age of 18, recorded in each of the following calendar years.*

- i) 2012*
- ii) 2013*
- iii) 2014*
- iv) 2015*
- v) 2016*
- vi) 2017*
- vii) 2018 to 13.09.18*

3) *Please break the number of offenders under the age of the 18 down by the number of offenders of each age. Please provide information for each of the following calendar years.*

- i) 2012*
- ii) 2013*
- iii) 2014*
- iv) 2015*
- v) 2016*
- vi) 2017*
- vii) 2018 to 13.09.18*

4) *Please state the number of victims of sexting offences, that is, victims of offences under Section 1 of the Protection of Children Act 1978 or Section 160 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988. Please provide information for each of the following calendar years.*

- i) 2012*
- ii) 2013*
- iii) 2014*
- iv) 2015*
- v) 2016*
- vi) 2017*
- vii) 2018 to 13.09.18*

5) *Please break the number of victims down by the number of victims of each age recorded. Please provide information for each of the following calendar years.*

- i) 2012*
- ii) 2013*
- iii) 2014*
- iv) 2015*
- v) 2016*
- vi) 2017*
- vii) 2018 to 13.09.18“*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 12 October 2018

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

There are no specific offence flags or marker to highlight those offences that specifically relate to sexting. Sexting crimes are recorded under Home Office recording codes 86/10 and 86/02, which relate to the following offences:

- Attempted - Possession of an indecent or pseudo indecent photo of a child
- Attempted - Take or to make or to distribute indecent photographs or pseudo- photographs, of children
- Possession of an indecent or pseudo indecent photo of a child
- Take or to make or to distribute indecent photographs or pseudo- photographs, of children



For the time frame requested, there were a total of 1,649 offences recorded under these offences. Each would need to be manually reviewed to establish whether the offence related to sexting or otherwise. It will also potentially require a degree of interpretation to establish whether the offence was that of sexting or otherwise.

Considering a search of 4 minutes per offence, it would take in excess of 100 hours to extract the data requested. Taking the current calendar year as an example, there have been to date, a total of 293 such offences recorded, to review this year alone would take in excess of 20 hours.

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. There is not always a victim recorded for these offences, there are a total of 228 offences recorded during the time frame requested, where a victim was noted. The Constabulary could review each of these offences to extract those that specifically relate to sexting. However it is noted that this will not provide a complete picture as this will only relate to offences with a victim recorded.

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/>



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 40 working 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