



Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 003765-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 13 October 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

“This request relates to sexual offences recorded by your police force, including rape and other sexual offences as outlined in the Home Office Counting Rules:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/694435/count-sexual-apr-2018.pdf

Please provide the following information broken down by calendar years a) 2014, b) 2015, c) 2016, d) 2017 and e) 2018 so far.

For each type of sexual offence listed in the Home Office Counting Rules, please state:

1. The total number of sexual offences recorded.
2. The total number of sexual offences recorded in which the victim(s) was recorded as having any disability.
3. The total number of sexual offences recorded in which the victim(s) was recorded as having a learning disability.”

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 25 October 2018

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

In order to establish the number of sexual offences that involved a victim with a disability would require a manual review of all sexual offences during the time frame specified. The Constabulary’s legacy system, CIS, which holds data recorded prior to 19 October 2015, does not record disability. In this system alone, there are 1,797 sexual offences recorded and each would need to be reviewed to establish whether the victim had a disability.

Additionally, the current crime system Athena does not contain a mandatory field for disability. For example, for all offences listed, 33 contained a disability marker, however we have a total of 38 hate crimes recorded where disability is the hate factor. Therefore, to provide a precise answer to the request would require a manual review of 5,640 sexual offences recorded on Athena.

Considering a search of 4 minutes per crime, to establish whether any disability is recorded, would take in excess of 500 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.

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.

A search has been completed of the Constabulary's crime system for all sexual offences recorded during the time frame 1 January 2014 – 30 September 2018.

The total number of sexual offences recorded during the time, is as follows:

Year	Total sexual offences
2014	926
2015	1225
2016	1529
2017	2048
2018	1709



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Grand Total	5640
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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