



Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 004061-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies on 1 November 2018 which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"How many crimes have you responded to that have taken place at a hospital in the past three years? Please could you provide a yearly breakdown?"*
2. *Please could you provide a breakdown on the type of crime committed and any other detail about what happened?"*
3. *Please could you specify how many crimes were committed against hospital staff and how many were against members of the public?"*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 8 November 2018

Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies have considered your request for information and the response is below.

The victim occupation is a non-mandatory field and it is completed on very few occasions. In order to extract the total number of offences that were against hospital staff and members of the public would require us to review each offence in order to ascertain these numbers. Even if we could extract the victim occupation, we would be unable to confirm in certain cases whether the victim was hospital staff or a member of public. For example, some of the occupations present state 'security officer' or 'cleaner', but does not specify whether the victim worked as a security officer or cleaner at the hospital or elsewhere.

To locate the offences located as occurring at a hospice/hospital where the victim occupation was hospital staff, would require a manual review of over 3,700 offences, which would take well in excess of 36 hours given a search of 4 minutes per offence.

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. The Constabularies do not hold, for the purposes of FOIA, all of 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, exceeding 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 Constabularies as £450 and specifies that this sum equates to 18 hours work per force at a standard rate of £25 per hour. This equates to 36 hours of work, or £900, for joint responses.

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 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 Constabularies crime system for all offences that have occurred where the location is recorded as 'Hospital/Hospice'. The data supplied will therefore include all relevant establishments and not just hospitals.

The total number of offences recorded with a location of 'hospice/hospital' is provided within the table below, by offence type, year and force.

The data provided relates to the time frame 1 November 2015 – 31 October 2018.

Suffolk Constabulary				
HOCR Sub Group	2015	2016	2017	2018
Arson	1			
Bicycle Theft		7	12	11
Burglary - Business And Community			7	5
Burglary In A Dwelling		1		
Burglary Non-Dwelling		6	2	
Criminal Damage	5	39	42	19
Interfering With A Motor Vehicle		1		1
Misc Crimes Against Society		8	6	2
Other Offences Public Order	1	6	5	2
Other Sexual Offences	8	6	22	10

Other Theft	18	53	63	29
Possession Of Drugs	2	8	4	2
Possession Of Weapons	1		3	3
Public Fear, Alarm Or Distress	4	26	41	32
Race Or Religious Agg Public Fear		15	26	4
Rape	2	3	7	7
Shoplifting		2	1	
Stalking And Harassment	1	6	9	16
Theft From A Vehicle		5	1	2
Theft From The Person	3	3	2	3
Theft Or Unauth Taking Of A Motor Veh			1	1
Trafficking Of Drugs		4	2	
Violence With Injury	14	108	85	46
Violence Without Injury	28	232	196	131
Total	88	539	537	326

Norfolk Constabulary				
HOCR Sub Group	2015	2016	2017	2018
Arson		4	2	2
Bicycle Theft	2	17	16	5
Burglary - Business And Community			5	4
Burglary Non-Dwelling		4		
Criminal Damage	12	88	63	57
Interfering With A Motor Vehicle		1	2	
Misc Crimes Against Society	1	5	2	8
Other Offences Public Order		10	8	7
Other Sexual Offences	6	39	38	24
Other Theft	11	42	56	42
Possession Of Drugs	1	5	2	5
Possession Of Weapons		3	3	4
Public Fear, Alarm Or Distress	3	34	49	40
Race Or Religious Agg Public Fear	1	3	3	10
Rape		2	9	10
Robbery Of Personal Property			1	1
Shoplifting		3	1	
Stalking And Harassment				8
Theft From A Vehicle		2	2	1
Theft From The Person		9	3	2
Theft Or Unauth Taking Of A Motor Veh				1
Trafficking Of Drugs	3		1	3
Violence With Injury	12	156	206	117
Violence Without Injury	42	365	340	277
Total	94	792	812	628

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.

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/>

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
Suffolk Constabulary
Police Headquarters
Martlesham Heath
Ipswich
Suffolk
IP5 3QS
OR
Email: information@suffolk.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 40 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 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