

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 004316-18

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

1. *“For each of the last three financial years (15/16), (16/17) and (17/18) please state how many juveniles (children aged UNDER 18) did you arrest on suspicion of having committed a firearms offence?”*
2. *For the (17/18) year please provide a grid showing the number of arrests for each individual age from 10 to 17 inclusive.*

By "firearms offences" I mean the following crimes with their Home Office coding:

10A Possession of firearms with intent,

10B Possession of firearms offences,

81.3 Other firearms offences

115 Firearms Act offences

81.1 and 81.2 Firearms Offences”

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 29 November 2018

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

A search has been completed of the Constabulary's crime and custody system for all arrests made for the offences of 'Possession of Firearms Offences' and 'Possession of Firearms with Intent'.

Arrest data is only held from 19 October 2015 onwards in an easily retrievable manner as a result in a change in recording system at this time. Information held prior to 19 October is not longer available for bulk data extraction. The information provided therefore relates to the time frame 17 October 2017 – 31 March 2018.

1. The total number of firearm offences where the arrested person was aged under 18 is provided below, noting 2015/16 financial year is partial data.

Offence	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
Possession of Firearms Offences	-	1	4

Possession of Firearms with intent	2	1	1
Grand Total	2	2	5

2. In respect those persons arrested in 17/18, the age breakdown is as follows:

Offence	Age	2017/2018
Possession of Firearms Offences	15	1
	16	2
	17	1
Possession of Firearms with intent	15	1
Grand Total		5

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/>

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