



SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

REQUEST NUMBER: FOI Request 004360-17

REQUEST DETAILS:

"I would like to request the following crime statistics for Ipswich between 1st January 2015 and 31st December 2015 and between 1st January 2016 and 31st December 2016. Please could you include:

- a) The number of alcohol related arrests that occurred in total during these periods*
- b) The total number of arrests in your area during these periods*
- c) The number of alcohol related arrests that occurred on a Friday/Saturday night between 21:00 and 03:00"*

RESPONSE:

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

This response is correct as of 30 March 2017

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.

The Constabulary changed crime recording system in November 2015 after which point it has not been possible to identify the specific times of arrest. As a consequence, the Constabulary is unable to confirm the number of alcohol related arrests that have occurred between the times of 21:00-03:00.

Each custody record would need to be reviewed to establish the times for the arrests. Considering there are many thousands of arrests made in Ipswich during a year, it would take well in excess of 18 hours to extract the data requested.

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



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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 offences recorded within Ipswich for the 2015 and 2016 calendar years.

There were a total of 1443 arrests made in Ipswich during 2015 and 2016, which contained an alcohol related marker.