



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 005008-17

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 17 May 2017 in which you sought access to the following information:

- 1. Please could you tell me how many drug wipe tests have been carried out in Suffolk since January 2016 and how many of these have been positive? I would like the information broken down by month, up until the most recent month which has been fully recorded. If possible, I would like the figure for cannabis and cocaine separately.*
- 2. Please could you also tell me how many arrests there were for drug driving, per month, from January 2014 to the most recent month which has been fully recorded?*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 17 May 2017

Suffolk Constabulary has located the following information as relevant to your request.

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.

In relation to question 2 of your request, drug driving as a distinct classification came into law on 2 March 2015 and therefore we can retrieve the number of arrests for drug driving from this date onwards. Pre March 2015 the offences were recorded under "driving whilst unfit through drink or drugs", between 01/01/14 – 31/03/15 there were a total of 196 recorded offences. In order to determine whether the offence was drink or drug related it would require us to case read each offence, and at 5-6 minutes per search this would exceed the time restraints of the FOI Act. This is in addition to the retrieval time for March 2015 onwards and the relevant data for Question 1.

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.

The total number of DrugWipe tests conducted between January 2016 and April 2017 was 2050. We do not collate this information by monthly breakdown.

The total numbers of positive tests resulting in a blood sample being submitted for laboratory analysis were 588. These can be broken down monthly, as below:

Suffolk - DrugWipe	Positive test
January 2016	15
February 2016	11
March 2016	40
April 2016	62
May 2016	32
June 2016	29
July 2016	49
August 2016	30
September 2016	39
October 2016	26
November 2016	46
December 2016	48
January 2017	43
February 2017	29
March 2017	49
April 2017	40
Total	588

Please note the positive test results are not recorded by drug group.

A breakdown of monthly arrests for drug driving from 2 March 2015 onwards is as follows:



Offence	2015	2016	2017	Grand Total
Drive a vehicle whilst unfit through drugs	48	33	4	85
January		2	3	5
February		3	1	4
March	6	6		12
April		3		3
May	6	3		9
June	5	5		10
July	7	3		10
August	7			7
September	3	3		6
October	3	1		4
November	8	1		9
December	3	3		6
Driving - Excess Drugs		422	159	581
January		10	40	50
February		24	35	59
March		56	45	101
April		37	39	76
May		35		35
June		34		34
July		43		43
August		33		33
September		33		33
October		27		27
November		42		42
December		48		48
Driving - In Charge - Unfit Through Drink/Drugs		17	3	20
January		3		3
February		1	1	2
March		1		1
April		2	2	4
May		1		1
June		2		2
August		3		3
September		1		1
October		1		1
November		1		1



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December		1		1
Driving - Unfit Through Drink/Drugs		29	17	46
January		2	2	4
February			7	7
March		3	4	7
April		1	4	5
May		7		7
June		4		4
July		1		1
August		3		3
September		2		2
October		2		2
November		2		2
December		2		2
Grand Total	48	501	183	732

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 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 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