



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 006066-17

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 11 August 2017 in which you sought access to the following information:

“Please could I request information on police vehicles involved in road accidents?”

I would like the information broken down into years for each of the following: 2014; 2015; 2016

For each year, could you please tell me:

- 1. How many road accidents were Suffolk police vehicles recorded as being involved in?*
- 2. How many of these road accidents resulted in injury?*
- 3. Of the road accidents that resulted in injury, how many were to police officers, how many to suspects being pursued by police, how many to members of the public not being pursued, and how many related to animals?*
- 4. How many, if any, of these road accidents resulted in a death?*
- 5. Of the road accidents that resulted in deaths, how many were to police officers, how many to suspects being pursued by police, how many to members of the public not being pursued and how many related to animals?*
- 6. Of all the road accidents, how many resulted in damage to property? Could you please break this down into which categories of property? E.g. another vehicle, a house, etc.*
- 7. Of the road accidents, how many resulted in a compensation claim being made? What was the largest sum paid out in compensation? What was the accident this related to? What was the total sum of compensation paid out for that year?”*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 11 August 2017

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

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.



Information concerning accidents involving police vehicles will be recorded within a variety of databases however, certain specific information is not extractable within the FOI time constraints. In respect part 2 of the request, there is no way of identifying the number of accidents that resulted in an injury without reviewing each claim as there is no report builder tool that will allow us to extract this information easily. Considering there are 225 claims within the time frame of the request, it would take in excess of 19 hours to extract the information.

Information concerning officer claims, which are dealt with in a separate system however, this system does rely on the officer notifying the department of their injuries. The database does not hold the information in an accessible format and it would involve further manual searches of the system. Additionally, as this information will not be a complete picture of the number of injuries sustained, the Constabulary would be required to complete further searches of individuals concerned.

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.

Should you have any further queries concerning this request, please contact Clair Pack, FOI Decision Maker, quoting the reference number shown above.

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 Road Traffic Collisions (RTC) recorded that involved a Suffolk police vehicle, is as follows:

2014 – 66
2015 – 53
2016 – 106

No police officer was killed as a result of the RTC.

- The resulting damage caused by the RTCs, was as follows:

2014 – All 66 related to a collision with another vehicle
2015 – 52 related to a collision with another vehicle; 1 related with a collision with an inanimate object



2016 – 53 related to a collision with another vehicle and 39 related to a collision with an inanimate object. The remainder caused no other damage.

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