



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 000108-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 8 January 2017 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"How many adults were reported missing to your Police force in 2017?"*
2. *Can you provide a breakdown of their age and gender?"*
3. *How many of the adults in Q1, if any, were reported to have gone missing abroad?"*
4. *How many missing adults were reported as found in 2017?"*
5. *How many of the adults reported missing to your Police force in 2017 had a mental health illness/flag attached to their record?"*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 8 January 2018

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.

Suffolk Constabulary is unable to provide the number of missing persons who are suspected of being abroad, as the system does not specifically report on this level of detail. In order to establish the number of missing persons who are recorded to have gone missing abroad, the Constabulary would be required to manually review each record. There were 1254 missing person incidents involving adults during the time frame of the request. We would need to manually review each at an anticipated 4 minutes each, we estimate it will take in excess of 80 hours to extract the data to answer question 3.



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.

1. A total of 1015 adults were reported missing during 2017, which relates to a total number of 1254 missing incidents involving adults.
2. Missing episodes are recorded and broken down by incidents rather than people. The below are the number of missing incidents broken down by age categories:

18-21 years old: 213
22-39 years old: 557
40-59 years old: 325
60-79 years old: 105
80+ years old: 48

Of the 1254 incidents; 789 involved males, 459 involved females and 6 involved transgender people.

3. The Force's missing person system does not report specifically on people that go missing abroad. To gain this information would require a significant amount of work which falls outside of the FOI guidelines around time taken to complete the request.
4. Of the 1254 missing incidents involving adults during 2017, 1252 have a found report recorded against the incident.



5. Of the 1254 missing incidents recorded for adults during 2017, 234 of those incidents had “mental health” listed as the reason for going missing.

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