



Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 000336-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies on 23 January 2019 which you sought access to the following information:

"In relation to the years, 2016, 2017, and 2018 I require the following information.

- 1. How many arrests under Section 76 of the Serious Crime Act 2015 (Coercive or controlling behaviour in an intimate or family behaviour) were made by officers from Suffolk Police?*
- 2. The outcomes (charged, released etc) to all the arrests identified above.*
- 3. A breakdown of the ages and genders of all arrested persons identified above.*
- 4. The number of referrals to the CPS by Suffolk Police for a prosecution under section 76 of the Serious Crime Act 2015 that were rejected or not taken forward by the CPS."*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 5 February 2019

Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies have considered your request for information and the response is below.

The Constabularies are unable to confirm the number of occasions an offence was referred to the CPS for prosecution and were rejected or not taken forward by the CPS. This information is not centrally recorded and would only be recorded within the associated crime file. Each would need to be manually reviewed in order to extract this detail, which will involve reviewing the crime report and associated documentation as this type of detail will not necessarily be recorded within the main body of the crime. Considering a search of 4 minutes per offence and that there are 633 relevant offences, would take in excess of 42 hours to extract.

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. The Constabularies do not hold, for the purposes of FOIA, all of 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, exceeding 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.

It is considered that to provide an answer to your request will take in excess of 36 hours to provide the information.

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 Constabularies as £450 and specifies that this sum equates to 18 hours work per force at a standard rate of £25 per hour. This equates to 36 hours of work, or £900, for joint responses.

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 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 conducted via our crime management system Athena for offences connected with Coercive or controlling behaviour.

1. The following number of people were arrested for Coercive/Controlling behaviour:

	Suffolk	Norfolk
2016	75	41
2017	118	75
2018	188	136

2. The recorded outcomes for the arrests are as follows:

OUTCOME	2016	2017	2018
Type 1 - Charged/Summoned/Postal Requisition	11	16	18
Type 1A - Charged/Summons - alternate offence.	8	15	6
Type 2A - Caution Youth - alternate offence.	1	0	0
Type 3 - Caution Adult	1	0	1
Type 3A - Caution Adult - alternate offence.	1	2	0

Type 8 - Community resolution (Crime)	1	1	0
Type 9 - Prosecution Not In the Public Interest (CPS)	1	1	1
Type 10 - Formal Action Against Offender is not in the Public Interest (Police)	0	0	1
Type 12 - Prosecution Prevented-Named Suspect Identified But Is Too Ill (Physical Or Mental Health) To Prosecute	1	0	0
Type 15 - Named Suspect Identified: Victim Supports Police Evidential Difficulties	20	35	65
Type 16 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties	23	31	44
Type 17 - Prosecution Time Limit Expired: Suspect Identified	0	0	1
Type 18 - Investigation Complete; No Suspect Identified.	1	2	1
Type 20 - Further action resulting from the crime report will be undertaken by another body or agency	0	1	0
Not Recorded	6	14	50
Grand Total	75	118	188

Outcome	2016	2017	2018
Type 1 - Charged/Summoned/Postal Requisition	7	18	23
Type 1A - Charged/Summons - alternate offence.	2		3
Type 2 - Caution Youth		1	
Type 3 - Caution Adult	1	2	4
Type 3A - Caution Adult - alternate offence.	1		2
Type 9 - Prosecution Not In the Public Interest (CPS)	1		1
Type 10 - Formal Action Against Offender is not in the Public Interest (Police)			1
Type 14 - Evidential Difficulties Victim Based- Suspect Not Identified:			1
Type 15 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties	18	30	32
Type 16 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties	10	18	24
Type 18 - Investigation Complete; No Suspect Identified.		1	
Not Recorded / Under Investigation	1	5	45
Grand Total	41	75	136

3. The age and gender of the persons arrested are as follows:

Gender	Suffolk			Norfolk		
	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
Male	74	113	181	41	74	132
Female	1	4	3		1	3
Not recorded		1	4			1

Age	Suffolk			Norfolk		
	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
16			1		1	1
17	3			1		
18	3	3	4	1		1
19	1	2	3	1		3
20	1	5	3	1	1	1
21	1		5	1	3	
22	1	3	7	1	2	2
23	2	1	8		1	1
24	1	5	6	2	2	2
25	3	4	5	3	4	7
26	2	5	8	3	2	5
27	1	3	4	2	5	3
28	2	4	10	2	4	8
29	4	2	9		1	5
30	3	2	5		2	10
31	1	5	3		4	1
32		3	1	3	3	6
33	2	9	6	2	2	5
34	5	3	5		1	3
35	2	3	7	2	2	4
36	2	6	4		1	4
37	4		5		2	5
38		3			2	2
39	1	3	9		2	4
40	3	2	2	1	1	4
41	2	3	3		3	4
42	1	2	2	2	1	6
43	1	3	4	4	4	3
44	4	3	2	1	1	4
45	2	2	1	2	3	4
46	1	1	4		2	4
47			6			3
48	2		4	1	2	4
49	1	2	6	2	2	1
50	1		3	1		2
51	1	2	1		1	2

52	3		2		1	3
53	2	5	1		1	1
54			2	1	2	
55	1		4		1	2
56	1	3	1			1
57		2	1		1	
58	1	2	2		1	
59	1	1	5			
60		2	2			1
61					1	1
63		1	2			
64			1			
65		1	1	1		
66		2				
67		1	2			1
68	1					1
69		1				1
70		1				
71			1			
72			1			
75	1					
86		1				
Not Recorded		1	4			

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/>

Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies are 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 the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary to review their decision.

Ask Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies to look at the decision again.

If you are dissatisfied with the decision made by Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies under the Freedom of Information Act (2000), regarding access to information, you must notify the Norfolk and 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 Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary will aim to respond to your request for us to look at our decision again within 40 working days of receipt of your request for an internal review.

The Information Commissioner.

After lodging a request for a review with Norfolk and 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