

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 000350-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *“What is the name of your Police force?”*

2. *How many people were reported missing to your Police force in the following years:*
 - a) 2015
 - b) 2016
 - c) 2017
 - d) 2018

3. a) *How many of those people from Q2 have been found (alive or deceased)?*
 - o *Reported missing in 2015*
 - o *Reported missing in 2016*
 - o *Reported missing in 2017*
 - o *Reported missing in 2018*
b) *Of those found in Q3a, how many were discovered deceased?*
 - o *Reported missing in 2015*
 - o *Reported missing in 2016*
 - o *Reported missing in 2017*
 - o *Reported missing in 2018*

4. *Of the cases investigated by your force, how many people who went missing between the years 2015 - 2018 - have not been found but have been declared legally dead since?*

5. *How much money did you spend investigating missing people's cases in the financial years;*
 - a) 2014 - 2015
 - b) 2015 - 2016
 - c) 2016 - 2017
 - d) 2017 – 2018
 - e) 2018 – 2019 thus far

6. *How much of your budget was set aside for the sole purpose of investigating missing people's cases in the following financial years? (Please provide a figure and not the percentage.)*
- a) 2014 - 2015
 - b) 2015 - 2016
 - c) 2016 - 2017
 - d) 2017 - 2018
 - e) 2018 - 2019
7. *In the year 2018 only, how long did your officers' spend on missing people's cases;*
- a) *Up to 1 week*
 - b) *Up to 4 weeks*
 - c) *Up to 12 weeks*
 - d) *Up to 6 months*
 - e) *Up to 1 year*
 - f) *more than a year"*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 11 February 2019

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

1. The information is provided by Suffolk Constabulary.

A search has been completed of the Constabulary's missing persons database, COMPACT, for all missing person reports recorded in the 2018 calendar year.

2. The total number of people reported missing from Suffolk Constabulary is as follows:

2015 - 1528
2016 - 1727
2017 - 1966
2018 - 1879

3. a. The following information confirms the total number of persons, who went missing in the respective year, were subsequently found. Please note that the number of found reports will be higher than the number of missing entries.

The difference can be explained as follows: If a person went missing twice in a given year, one time they suffered harm and the other time they didn't, they will count only once in the missing statistics but they will be accounted for once when you set suffered harm to "yes" and again when you set it to "no" for the found statistics. This creates a fringe situation where found numbers are slightly inflated compared to the missing numbers for that year.

We are unable to confirm the number of persons who went missing in a year and have not been found. In order to obtain this information each closed and inactive case would need to be reviewed to establish whether the individual was still missing, this would take an excessive amount of time to retrieve.

Reported missing in 2015 – 1546
Reported missing in 2016 – 1758
Reported missing in 2017 – 2006
Reported missing in 2018 – 1913

b. The total number of persons above, who were found deceased, is as follows:

Reported missing in 2015 - 11
Reported missing in 2016 - 12
Reported missing in 2017 - 10
Reported missing in 2018 - 11

4. No persons reported missing since 2015 have been declared legally dead.
5. The Constabulary does not capture costs for missing persons investigations unless there is a specific operational name assigned to the investigation. Therefore, we are unable to confirm the total cost to the Constabulary to investigate missing person cases, as such figures are embedded within departmental and operational policing budgets.
6. As above, the Constabulary does not have a budget specifically assigned to missing person investigations. Such costs would generally be contained within the overall County Policing Command and Safeguarding and Investigations budgets.
7. The Constabulary does not record officer hours spent on individual missing person cases. Should an operational name be assigned, information would be held with regards to overtime hours, however this would not provide the complete data concerning hours specifically spent on missing person's investigations.



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 40 working 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