



Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 000405-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies on 28 January 2019 which you sought access to the following information:

“Between 1st Jan 2018 and 31st December 2018

- 1. How many people were arrested for the offence of begging in your force area*
- 2. Of The total number of people arrested how many where charged with the offence of begging*
- 3. From the total number charged how many of that number had residential address at the point of charge.”*

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 information supplied is recorded different by Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies. Suffolk Constabulary does not record the number of arrests made specifically under the Vagrancy Act, which falls under the wider category of public order. Instead, Suffolk is only able to provide the number of investigations recorded.

Data for Norfolk relates to the number of arrests made under the Vagrancy Act as there is a specific arrest category of ‘begging’.

The data for the two Constabularies cannot be used in comparison with each other.

1. Norfolk arrested a total of 13 people under the Vagrancy Act during the 2018 calendar year. Norfolk Constabulary does not record investigations as they are non-notifiable and there is no requirement to do so.

Suffolk recorded a total of 7 investigations under the Vagrancy Act during the 2018 calendar year.

2. No person was charged in Suffolk Constabulary.

12 persons were charged in Norfolk Constabulary.

3. We cannot confirm whether address details contained within the record were correct as at the point of charge, it simply is not recorded in this way. It is also plausible that an individual could provide an alternative address.

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