

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 000432-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 29 January 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *“What were the total number of dog theft crimes in 2016, 2017 and 2018?”*
2. *What was the outcome (charge/summons, community resolution, active investigation, evidential difficulties, no suspect identified) for each dog theft crime in 2016, 2017 and 2018?*
3. *Does your force have a dedicated team or team member who is responsible for overseeing such reports?*
4. *What criteria do you use for recording a dog/puppy as a theft as opposed to missing?”*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 6 February 2019

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

1. A search has been completed of the Constabulary's crime system for all theft of dog offences recorded for the 2016 – 2018 calendar years.

Offence	Animal Type	Outcome	2016	2017	2018
Burglary - Residential - Dwelling	Dog	Not Recorded		1	
		Type 15 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties		1	
		Type 18 - Investigation Complete; No Suspect Identified.		1	
Theft if not classified elsewhere	Dog	Not Recorded	2	1	
		Type 12 - Prosecution Prevented-Named Suspect Identified But Is Too Ill (Physical Or Mental Health) To Prosecute		1	
		Type 14 - Evidential Difficulties Victim Based- Suspect Not Identified	1		2
		Type 15 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties	2		2
		Type 16 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties			1
		Type 18 - Investigation Complete; No	3	3	5

		Suspect Identified.			
	Puppies	Type 18 - Investigation Complete; No Suspect Identified.			1
	Puppy	Not Recorded		1	
		Type 18 - Investigation Complete; No Suspect Identified.		1	
Grand Total			8	10	11

2. As above
3. The Constabulary does not have a dedicated team, this is embedded within usual police officer roles.
4. Suffolk Constabulary adheres to the National Crime Recording Standard. Crime Recording is victim-oriented. Essentially, if a victim truly believes they are the victim of crime, it will invariably be recorded.

'If, on a balance of probability, the circumstances of the victim's report amount to a crime in law and there is no evidence immediately available to the contrary, then a crime will be recorded.

Where a victim, or person reasonably assumed to be acting on behalf of a victim, believes they are the victim of a notifiable crime, this is usually sufficient to justify the recording of a victim-based crime.'

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/>



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