



## Freedom of Information Request Reference N<sup>o</sup>: FOI 000482-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies on 31 January 2019 which you sought access to the following information:

- “1. (i) How many reports of sexual offences were made to your police force between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018?  
(ii) How many of those reported offences have so far resulted in a conviction? (As of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019)
2. (i) How many reports of sexual offences were made to your police force between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017?  
(ii) How many of those reported offences have so far resulted in a conviction? (As of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019)
3. (i) How many reports of sexual offences were made to your police force between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016?  
(ii) How many of those reported offences have so far resulted in a conviction? (As of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019)”

## Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 6 February 2019

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

A search has been completed of the Constabularies crime system for all sexual offences recorded for the 2016 – 2018 calendar years.

The total number of sexual offences recorded is provided in the table below by force and year:

Force	2016	2017	2018
Norfolk	1905	2468	2684
Suffolk	1585	2082	2359
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3490</b>	<b>4550</b>	<b>5043</b>

The Constabularies do not hold conviction data, however we have provided below the total number of people charged with a sexual offence. Please note that there will be offences that remain under investigation and there are other available positive outcomes.

**Victims are the priority in any investigation and we will always work to gather and secure evidence in order to gain a successful conviction.**

**Many factors have an effect on the number of people charged with offences, including the strength of the evidence presented and in some cases, the willingness of the victim to proceed.**

**When dealing with sexual offences, prosecutions are not always the desired outcome for victims and for many reasons they may not be able to support police investigations.**

**These crimes can often be complex and may have taken place within a family setting, meaning victims can be unwilling to take matters to court.**

<b>Total charged</b>			
<b>Force</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Norfolk	241	216	108
Suffolk	150	104	64
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>172</b>

***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](mailto: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](http://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