



Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 000594-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies on 11 February 2019 which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"How many people were charged with possession of a bladed article in public, with both assault and possession of a bladed article, and with both murder and possession of a bladed article?"*
2. *Of those charged, what was the ethnic breakdown (using the range below)?*
Asian/Asian British
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British
Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups
White
Other ethnic group (including Chinese)
3. *Of those charged, what was the gender breakdown?*
4. *Of those charged, what was the age breakdown (using the range below)?*
Age range
Under 10
10 - 12
13 - 15
16 - 18
19 - 25
26 - 40
41 - 55
Over 55"

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 22 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 offences of Possession of a bladed article for the 2016 – 2018 calendar years.

1. The total number of persons charged with possession of a bladed article in public is provided in the table below:

Year	Norfolk	Suffolk
2016	118	80
2017	114	102
2018	189	97
Grand Total	421	279

The total number of persons charged with both assault (violent offences) and possession of a bladed article is provided in the table below. These figures relate to occasions where possession and violent offences are included as a primary and secondary classification under the same crime reference.

Year	Norfolk	Suffolk
2016	6	4
2017	1	2
2018	4	0
Grand Total	11	6

There were no persons charged with both murder and possession of a bladed article under the same crime reference.

2. The ethnicity of the persons charged is as follows:

Possession Offences		
Ethnicity	Norfolk	Suffolk
Asian/Asian British	4	6
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	33	25
Unknown	16	9
White	376	244

Possession and Violent offences		
Ethnicity	Norfolk	Suffolk
Asian/Asian British	-	1
Unknown	-	2
White	11	3

3. The gender of those persons charged is as follows:

Possession Offences		
Gender	Norfolk	Suffolk
Female	63	35
Male	366	249

Possession and Violent offences		
Gender	Norfolk	Suffolk
Female	2	1
Male	9	5

4. The age range of those persons charged is as follows:

Possession Offences		
Age	Norfolk	Suffolk
10-12	3	2
13-15	21	13
16-18	57	45
19-25	76	66
26-40	163	99
41-55	93	48
Over 55	16	11

Possession and Violent offences		
Age	Norfolk	Suffolk
16-18	2	-
19-25	1	5
26-40	6	1
41-55	1	-
Over 55	1	-

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