



## **Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 000625-19**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 13 February 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

*“Please can you provide the annual count for your Constabulary of arrests, charges, number of assailants released on bail or released without charge, and successful and non-successful prosecutions (those that went to Court but were dismissed) under Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 from its introduction in 2003 to date - specifically with reference to social media communications, i.e. Facebook, Twitter, etc.*

*If 2018 information is not yet fully available, please identify what is currently available and provide as much as possible if you could.*

### Clarification

*If you use the Home Office Counting Rules, please use 8/72: ‘Sending letters etc with intent to cause anxiety.’ Again, I would like the number of arrests and charges per annum from 2003 to date. I understand that this may not have been a notifiable crime prior to 2015, but I would still like the number of arrests and numbers in custody prior to this time, categorised under this 8/72 counting rule; as well as the crime count for 2015 to date (as well as arrest and charge count – just to clarify).”*

### **Response to your Request**

The response provided below is correct as of 5 March 2019

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

Suffolk Constabulary has completed a search of the crime system Athena for all arrests made for ‘Malicious Communications’ for the 2015 – 2018 calendar years.

Please note that the Constabulary only holds arrest data from 19 October 2015, which was the date the current crime system was introduced. All information held prior to this time is held within the legacy system, which is not available for bulk data extraction.

The table provided below confirms all arrests made and the resulting outcome for the offence of malicious communications, where the words Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or Snapchat appear within the crime text.



**SUFFOLK  
CONSTABULARY**  
*Taking pride in keeping Suffolk safe*

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Adult Caution	2		3
Bail to Police Station		1	3
Charge		6	3
Detention Refused			1
Further Enquiries (voluntary attendee)			1
Postal Requisition (applied from case)			1
Refused Charge (NFA)		1	6
Youth Caution			1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>19</b>

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](mailto: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](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