



## **Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 000657-19**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 21 February 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

- 1. "The number of people reported as missing to Suffolk police in 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015 and 2014;*
- 2. For each year, please also break this down into the age brackets 0-10, 0-18 and 18+;*
- 3. For each year, please also provide the age of the youngest person reported missing and the oldest person reported missing and where they are from;*
- 4. Of those reported missing in 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015 and 2014, how many are still missing? Please also include their ages and where they are from"*

### **Response to your Request**

The response provided below is correct as of 21 February 2019

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

In relation to your request for information and in accordance with Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), this response serves as a formal notification of refusal for your request. Suffolk Constabulary does not hold, for the purposes of FOIA, the information you require in a retrievable format.

It is estimated that to attempt to retrieve all of the information you require would take a considerable amount of retrieval time, which would exceed 18 hours. This would exceed the appropriate limit for dealing with Freedom of Information requests, in terms of costs and therefore Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 applies.

In relation to Question 4 of your request, to retrieve this information would involve manually reviewing thousands of closed and inactive reports to establish if the person was still recorded as missing, this would be a very time consuming task and would way exceed the time restraints of the FOI Act.

With regards to the specific ages of the individuals and the locarion from which they were from, the COMPACT system only provide an age band for the youngest person reported missing and for location, the information is not accessible. Although this will be held within the report itself, the

way the data is presented to us when a search is completed does not enable us to cross reference the data with the compact system. Therefore to provide this information would also require a review of each record to establish their specific age and location.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states that a Public Authority is not obliged to: *"...comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit."* The Freedom of Information (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations, defines the 'appropriate limit' for the Suffolk Constabulary as £450 and specifies that this sum equates to 18 hours work at a standard rate of £25 per hour.

In accordance with Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter serves as a refusal notice for this part of your request.

By requesting *all* information your request is too broad to be complied with within the £450 limit imposed on Freedom of Information requests.

Although excess cost removes the Force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

1. The number of people reported as missing between 2014 – 2018 is as follows:

2018: 1879  
 2017: 1966  
 2016: 1727  
 2015: 1528  
 2014: 1398

2. Broken down into age brackets is as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>0 – 10 years</b>	<b>0 – 18 years</b>	<b>18+ years</b>
2018	60	920	1011
2017	76	983	1034
2016	67	876	888
2015	48	715	844
2014	67	644	786

3. We can confirm that for all years the youngest person reported missing was aged 0-1 years.

The oldest person recorded as missing was as follows:



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<b>Year</b>	<b>Youngest</b>	<b>Oldest</b>
2018	0-1 years	94 years
2017	0-1 years	94 years
2016	0-1 years	96 years
2015	0-1 years	93 years
2014	0-1 years	95 years

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