



## Freedom of Information Request Reference N<sup>o</sup>: FOI 000658-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies on 14 February 2019 which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"I would like to request the number of offences that were categorised as an acid attack or corrosive fluid offence between 1st January 2018 and 31st December 2018 inclusive, broken down by month where possible; and*
2. *The percentage and or number of said offences mentioned in 1. that were recorded as Violent Offences within the category 'Violence Against the Person' also broken down by month; and*
3. *Where available the percentage and or number of said offences mentioned in 1. that were flagged as Hate Crimes also broken down by month; and*
4. *The ethnicity, age and gender of victims of the said Violent Offences mentioned in 2. broken down by month; and*
5. *The ethnicity, age and gender of suspects in the said Violent Offences mentioned in 2. broken down by month; and*
6. *The outcomes of the said Violent Offences mentioned in 2. broken down by month; and*
7. *Of the said positive outcomes mentioned in 6. the ethnicity, age and gender of suspects broken down by month."*

## Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 1 March 2019

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

A search has been carried out of the Constabularies Crime Information Systems for all offences recorded that relate to an attack with a corrosive substance or acid.

The table provided below confirms the total number of offences recorded, which is in accordance with the National Police Chiefs Councils definition of a corrosive substance attack.

During the 2018 calendar year there were 6 offences recorded in Suffolk and 3 offences recorded in Norfolk. The details for each are provided in the tables below.

None of the crimes recorded have a hate crime marker attached to them.

The information supplied does not include the months to ensure no individual is identified.

Suffolk Constabulary							
Violent Offence	Victim			Suspect			Outcome
	Age	Gender	Ethnicity	Age	Gender	Ethnicity	
N	57	Male	White - North European	unknown	male	unknown	Type 18 - Investigation Complete; No Suspect Identified.
Y	77	female	White - North European	66	female	White - North European	Type 15 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties
Y	18	female	White - North European	24	Male	White - North European	Type 16 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties
Y	30	male	Black	17	male	Black	Type 16 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties
Y	16	female	White - North European	17	male	White - North European	Type 16 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties
Y	19	male	Black	26	male	White - North European	Under Investigation

Norfolk Constabulary							
Violent Offence	Victim			Suspect			Outcome
	Age	Gender	Ethnicity	Age	Gender	Ethnicity	
Y	22	Female	White - North European	Not recorded	Male	Not recorded	Type 18 - Investigation Complete; No Suspect Identified.
N	17	Female	White - North European	41	Male	White - North European	Under Investigation
Y	61	Female	White - North European	14	Male	White - North European	Type 16 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires that Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) are to provide you the applicant with a notice ban which:

- (a) States that fact
- (b) Specifies the exemption(s) in question and
- (c) States (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption(s) applies.

The information is exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption;

**Section 40(2) – Personal Data (By virtue of Section 40(3)(a)(i))**

Section 40 is an absolute; class based exemption and applies to third party personal data. This would not be released under the FOIA unless there is a strong public interest. This is because any release would breach the Principles contained within Article 5(1) of the GDPR and Part 2 of the Data Protection Act 2018.

One of the main differences between the Data Protection Act and the Freedom of Information Act is that any information released under FOI is released into the public domain, not just to the individual requesting the information. As such, any release that identifies an individual through releasing their personal data, even third party personal data, is exempted unless there is a strong public interest in its release. The public interest is not what interests the public but what benefits the community as a whole.

Personal data is defined under the Data Protection Act as data that is biographical in nature, has the applicant as its focus and/or affects the data subject's privacy in his or her personal, professional or business life.

Principle a of Article 5(1) states that information must be processed fairly, lawfully and in a transparent manner. In this case the individuals would have a reasonable expectation that information would not be processed if it resulted in their identification, or equally led to an individual be wrongfully identified as a suspect.

FOIA disclosures are to the world at large and will remain in the public domain indefinitely. Therefore, provision of this information would exceed the original Policing requirement for the processing of the information and would not be lawful or fair to the individuals in question.

It is for these reasons outlined above; that I feel the principle would be breached by this disclosure and the Section 40 exemption remains in place. I am not obliged to consider any further principle in my arguments.

This is an absolute, class based exemption and, as such, there is no requirement for the public interest test.

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