



Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 000677-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies on 15 February 2019 which you sought access to the following information:

1. *“The number of arrests you made under the Vagrancy Act 1824 in 2018, and the offences these arrests were for.*
2. *The number of convictions under the act for the same time period, again by offence.*
3. *The number of arrests and convictions for 2017.”*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 15 February 2019

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

The information supplied is recorded different by Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies. Suffolk Constabulary does not record the number of arrests made specifically under the Vagrancy Act, which falls under the wider category of public order. Instead, Suffolk is only able to provide the number of investigations recorded.

Data for Norfolk relates to the number of arrests made under the Vagrancy Act as there is a specific arrest category of ‘begging’.

The data for the two Constabularies cannot be used in comparison with each other.

| Year | Norfolk (arrests) | Suffolk (investigations) |
|------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 2017 | 35 | 13 |
| 2018 | 15 | 7 |

| Year | Charges | |
|------|---------|---------|
| | Norfolk | Suffolk |
| 2017 | 18 | 0 |
| 2018 | 12 | 0 |

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