



Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 000702-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies on 18 February 2019 which you sought access to the following information:

1. *“What were the total number of pushbike/bicycle thefts reported to Suffolk AND Norfolk police?”*
2. *What was the total number of pushbike/bicycle thefts where the stolen bicycle was returned to the owner in Suffolk/Norfolk? (If applicable)*
3. *What was the total number of convictions made in relation to pushbike/bicycle thefts in Suffolk/Norfolk? (if applicable)*
4. *What was the total number of reported pushbike/bicycle thefts that received a responding officer on scene?*

In regards to the timescale, the most recent full year of data would be great”

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 4 March 2019

Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies have 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. The Constabularies do not hold, for the purposes of FOIA, all of 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, exceeding 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.

It is considered that to provide an answer to your request will take in excess of 36 hours to provide the information.

In relation to Question 4 of your request, to retrieve if an officer responded on the scene would require a manual review of each offence. During the 2018 calendar year a total of 2259 bicycle thefts were reported to Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies, at an average of 3 minutes per search this question alone would take in excess of 100 hours to retrieve.

In addition, we have reviewed the number of bikes where the 'found' field has been selected and this related to only 6 offences. Where this may be the case, we would need to review all of the offences to establish whether any other bikes were found and this field not recorded. The found field is non-mandatory and it is highly likely that this figure will be higher.

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 Constabularies as £450 and specifies that this sum equates to 18 hours work per force at a standard rate of £25 per hour. This equates to 36 hours of work, or £900, for joint responses.

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 limit imposed on Freedom of Information requests.

Although excess cost removes the Forces' 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.

A search has been undertaken for "Theft of Unauthorised Taking of Pedal Cycle" and in addition offences where a cycle has been listed as stolen.

The below table provides the total number for both Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies:

| Norfolk | Suffolk |
|---------|---------|
| 1201 | 1058 |

The Constabularies do not record conviction data however, the total number of persons recorded to have been charged is as follows, noting there are other available positive outcomes available for offences.

| Outcome | Norfolk | Suffolk |
|---------|---------|---------|
|---------|---------|---------|

| | | |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Type 1 - Charged/Summoned/Postal Requisition | 33 | 10 |
| Type 1A - Charged/Summons - alternate offence. | | 1 |
| Grand Total | 33 | 11 |

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