



Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 000777-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies on 25 February 2019 which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"How many reports of underage explicit photos on social media site Snapchat did your force receive in 2017,2018 and 2019?"*
2. *How many investigations has your police force launched into underage sharing of explicit images on social media site Snapchat as a result of these reports?*
3. *What was the outcome of these investigations?*
4. *How many arrests have been made as a result of these investigations in 2017,2018 and 2019?*
5. *How many reports of underage explicit videos on social media site TikTok did your force receive in 2018 and 2019?*
6. *How many investigations has your police force launched into underage sharing of explicit images on social media site TikTok as a result of these reports?*
7. *What was the outcome of these investigations?*
8. *How many arrests have been made as a result of these investigations in 2018 and 2019?"*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 11 March 2019

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

The Constabularies are unable to confirm the number of reports received concerning snapchat and tiktok as it would require a manual review of all call logs to establish whether any related to the social media site and whether those reports related to under age sharing of explicit photographs or videos. There is no specific search function within the call data that would provide any reliable

means to extract such data and consequently, we would be required to review many thousands of records to extract those relevant to the request.

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.

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 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.

A search has been completed of the Constabularies crime system for all offences recorded of 'Take or to make or to distribute indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs, of children', 'Possession of an indecent or pseudo indecent photo of a child' and 'Possessing prohibited images of children.'

The information has then been filtered to include only those where snapchat or tiktok are referred to within the freetext of the crime.

Please note that freetext searches are by their very nature unreliable and consequently, there may be additional relevant offences that have not been extracted because these words do not appear specifically within the crime freetext.

The table provided below confirms the number of those offences that contained these specific words and the relevant outcome.

Suffolk Constabulary			
Snapchat			
Crime / Outcome	2017	2018	2019
Possessing prohibited images of children			
Type 21 - Not in the public interest - police decision.	1		
Possession of an indecent or pseudo indecent photo of a child			
Not Recorded	2	1	
Type 1 - Charged/Summonsed/Postal Requisition	1		
Type 15 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties	3		
Type 16 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties		1	
Type 18 - Investigation Complete; No Suspect Identified.	1		
Type 21 - Not in the public interest - police decision.	7	2	
Take or to make or to distribute indecent photographs or pseudo- photographs, of children			
Not Recorded	2	16	5
Type 1 - Charged/Summonsed/Postal Requisition	1		
Type 11 - Below The Age Of Criminal Responsibility		1	
Type 15 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties	3	8	1
Type 16 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties	5	2	
Type 18 - Investigation Complete; No Suspect Identified.	9	1	1
Type 20 - Further action resulting from the crime report will be undertaken by another body or agency	10	2	
Type 21 - Not in the public interest - police decision.	45	52	
Type 3 - Caution Adult	1		
Type 8 - Community resolution (Crime)	4	5	
Type 9 - Prosecution Not In the Public Interest (CPS)	1		
Under Investigation			4
Grand Total	96	91	11

Norfolk Constabulary			
Snapchat			
Crime / Outcome	2017	2018	2019
Possessing prohibited images of children			
Type 8 - Community resolution (Crime)	1		
Possession of an indecent or pseudo indecent photo of a child			
Not Recorded	1	3	
Type 1 - Charged/Summonsed/Postal Requisition	1	1	
Type 15 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties		1	
Type 18 - Investigation Complete; No Suspect Identified.		1	
Type 21 - Not in the public interest - police decision.	1	3	
Type 8 - Community resolution (Crime)	1		
Type 10 - Not in the Public Interest (Police)	3	1	
Under Investigation	1		

Take or to make or to distribute indecent photographs or pseudo- photographs, of children			
Not Recorded	3	18	
Type 1 - Charged/Summoned/Postal Requisition	1		
Type 15 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties	6	5	
Type 16 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties	3	1	
Type 18 - Investigation Complete; No Suspect Identified.		5	1
Type 20 - Further action resulting from the crime report will be undertaken by another body or agency	2		
Type 21 - Not in the public interest - police decision.	39	22	
Type 3 - Caution Adult	1		
Type 8 - Community resolution (Crime)	1		
Type 2 - Caution Youth	2		
Type 10 - Not in the Public Interest (Police)	8	15	
Under Investigation	1	1	
Grand Total	76	77	1

TikTok		
Force	2018	2019
Norfolk		1
Suffolk	1	
	1	1

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