



## **Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 000834-19**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies on 28 February 2019 which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"How many cannabis farms have been discovered in your area of jurisdiction in the last 2 years? Please include data if possible from February 2017 to February 2019. If not possible please can I have the most recent data that covers two calendar years.*
2. *How many children under the age of 18 were found at these locations?*
3. *If available, what was the age and nationality of the children found?*
4. *What happened to any minors found on these locations- were they arrested, flagged to the NCA's NRM etc."*

### **Response to your Request**

The response provided below is correct as of 11 April 2019

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

Information concerning cannabis production and whether an individual aged under 18 was present is not information that is held in an easily retrievable format for Norfolk Constabulary. There are 274 production of cannabis offences recorded for Norfolk during the time frame requested, each of those would need to be manually reviewed to establish whether there were any children present at the time of the offence and the reason as to why they are recorded within the crime i.e suspect / involved party etc.

Considering a search of 4 minutes per offences, it would take in excess of 18 hours to extract this specific data.

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. Norfolk 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.

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 Norfolk 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.

A search has been completed of the Constabularies crime system for all offences of 'Production of a controlled drug – Class B – Cannabis', during the time frame 1 February 2017 – 28 February 2019. Please note that the data held does not differentiate between a cannabis farm and the production of a single plant. The data provided therefore relates to all cannabis production offences.

1. The total number of offences recorded during this time frame is provided in the table below, by force and year.

<b>Force</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Norfolk	122	132	20
Suffolk	52	42	8

The following data pertains to Suffolk Constabulary only as the data for Norfolk would take in excess of 18 hours to extract from the systems, as explained above.

2. No children were found at any of the locations
3. N/A
4. N/A

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