



24th March 2020

Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 000841/20

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies on the 25th February 2020 in which you sought access to the following information:

Would I be able to narrow this request to just 2019 please?

- 1 A list of items that were seized by police from January 2017 to December 2019, broken down by month, with details of;
 - A items that were destroyed,
 - B items that were sold in auction houses and their values.
 - C items that were sold online and their values.
- 2 How the money raised from the auctioned items was distributed/where it was spent.

Response to your Request

Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies have considered your request and our response is below.

Research has been undertaken of all recorded seized property items, including vehicles, for the 2019 calendar year. This has identified over 36,000 items in Suffolk and 45,000 in Norfolk. In order to provide you with a list of these items, we would need to review each entry in order to remove any personal information and any identifying incident and crime reference numbers, which can relate to individual investigations.

Having considered the information requested, I have decided not to provide the information as the Constabularies consider the exemption at section 14(1) to apply. This refusal notice relies on the application of section 14(1) of the Freedom of Information Act – Vexatious Request.

Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the request is vexatious.

Section 14(1) may be used in a variety of circumstances where a request, or its impact on a public authority, cannot be justified. Considering requests that impose a grossly oppressive burden but where section 12 (costs consideration) cannot be applied, the Constabularies should consider the amount of time required to review and prepare the information for disclosure.

The Information Commissioner has issued guidance for such occasions:-

- The requester has asked for a substantial volume of information, AND
- The authority has real concerns about potentially exempt information, which it will be able to substantiate, if asked to do so by the ICO, AND
- Any potentially exempt information cannot easily be isolated because it is scattered throughout the requested material.

The Constabularies consider that all of the above conditions are applicable in this case.

As the requester has asked for a substantial amount of information, which will undoubtedly contain exempt information, that could only be identified by spending a significant amount of time assessing the records, we feel section 14(1) is relevant.

The information captured by this request is likely to engage the following exemptions:-

- Section 40(2) – Personal Information
- Section 30(1) – Investigations and proceedings conducted by public authorities

Taking into account the above considerations, ICO guidance and previous case law, which states:

“...that in considering whether a request is vexatious...the demands they place on the public authorities time and resource may be a relevant factor.”

The Freedom of Information Act was created so that public authorities could be open and accountable to the general public, ensuring the public is better informed and encourage public debate. Whilst it is recognised that there is a public interest in the requested information, when a request is received, that requires a great deal of review and redaction, the Constabularies can consider the burden that would be placed on Constabulary resources.

However, having taken the above into consideration, we have provided some of the requested details below:

The following figures do not include seized drugs.

With regard to the destroyed figures, these include COURT ORDER FOR DESTRUCTION / COURT ORDER FOR DISPOSAL / NOT COLLECTED DISPOSED / CAUTION – DESTROY. They do not include those transferred to other agencies/departments or returned to owner.

| SUFFOLK | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Total items – Volume | 36,338 |
| Destroyed | 3,215 |
| Sold at auction | 37 (as 16 lots) |
| NORFOLK | |
| Total items – Volume | 45,003 |
| Destroyed | 4,568 |
| Sold at auction | 67 (as 59 lots) |

The following auction information provides the items sold and, for Norfolk the ‘hammer price’. The Suffolk prices are after deductions have been made.

| NORFOLK | |
|---|--------------|
| Description | Hammer Price |
| MANMADE \ CONVEYANCE \ PEDAL CYCLE | £140 |
| MANMADE \ HOUSEHOLD ELECTRICAL \ AUDIO EQUIPMENT \ HEADPHONES | £12 |
| MANMADE \ TIMEPIECE \ WATCH | £12 |
| MANMADE \ HOUSEHOLD ELECTRICAL \ TELEVISION | £20 |

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| MANMADE \ TABLEWARE | £4 |
| MANMADE \ CLOTHING | £40 |
| MANMADE \ CLOTHING | Sold as one lot |
| MANMADE \ CLOTHING | Sold as one lot |
| MANMADE \ CLOTHING | Sold as one lot |
| MANMADE \ CLOTHING | Sold as one lot |
| MANMADE \ CLOTHING | Sold as one lot |
| MANMADE \ CONVEYANCE \ PEDAL CYCLE | £2 |
| MANMADE \ CONVEYANCE \ PEDAL CYCLE | £28 |
| MANMADE \ CONVEYANCE \ PEDAL CYCLE | £20 |
| MANMADE \ TOOL \ POWER TOOL | £12 |
| MANMADE \ TOOL \ POWER TOOL | £8 |
| MANMADE \ TOOL \ POWER TOOL | £10 |
| MANMADE \ TOOL \ POWER TOOL | £20 |
| MANMADE \ TOOL \ POWER TOOL | £14 |
| MANMADE \ TOOL \ POWER TOOL | £2 |
| MANMADE \ TOOL \ POWER TOOL | £4 |
| MANMADE \ TOOL \ POWER TOOL | £4 |
| MANMADE \ TOOL \ POWER TOOL | £150 |
| MANMADE \ TOOL \ POWER TOOL | £65 |
| MANMADE \ TOOL \ POWER TOOL | £34 |
| MANMADE \ TOOL \ POWER TOOL | £70 |
| MANMADE \ TOOL \ POWER TOOL | £26 |
| MANMADE \ TOOL \ POWER TOOL | £14 |
| MANMADE \ JEWELLERY \ RING | £40 |
| MANMADE \ CONVEYANCE \ PEDAL CYCLE | £65 |
| MANMADE \ CONVEYANCE \ PEDAL CYCLE | Sold as one lot |
| MANMADE \ CONVEYANCE \ PEDAL CYCLE | £10 |
| MANMADE \ CONVEYANCE \ PEDAL CYCLE | £3 |
| MANMADE \ CONVEYANCE \ PEDAL CYCLE | £12 |
| MANMADE \ CONVEYANCE \ PEDAL CYCLE | £25 |
| MANMADE \ FOOTWEAR | £12 |
| MANMADE \ CLOTHING | £10 |
| MANMADE \ HOUSEHOLD ELECTRICAL \ MASSAGE EQUIPMENT | £12 |
| MANMADE \ CLOTHING | £12 |
| MANMADE \ CLOTHING | £12 |
| MANMADE \ CLOTHING | £12 |
| MANMADE \ CLOTHING | £18 |
| MANMADE \ CLOTHING | £16 |
| MANMADE \ CLOTHING | £20 |

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| MANMADE \ CLOTHING | £12 |
| MANMADE \ CLOTHING | £18 |
| MANMADE \ CLOTHING | £12 |
| MANMADE \ CONVEYANCE \ PEDAL CYCLE | £14 |
| MANMADE \ LUGGAGE/BAG | £6 |
| MANMADE \ CONVEYANCE \ PEDAL CYCLE | £10 |
| MANMADE \ CLOTHING | £2 |
| MANMADE \ LUGGAGE/BAG | £2 |
| MANMADE \ LUGGAGE/BAG | £16 |
| MANMADE \ JEWELLERY \ RING | Awaiting results |
| MANMADE \ JEWELLERY \ RING | Awaiting results |
| MANMADE \ JEWELLERY \ RING | Awaiting results |
| MANMADE \ CONVEYANCE \ PEDAL CYCLE | £60 |
| MANMADE \ LUGGAGE/BAG | £42 |
| MANMADE \ CONVEYANCE \ PEDAL CYCLE | £48 |
| MANMADE \ CONVEYANCE \ PEDAL CYCLE | £12 |
| MANMADE \ CONVEYANCE \ PEDAL CYCLE | £14 |
| MANMADE \ GARDEN EQUIPMENT | £12 |
| MANMADE \ CONVEYANCE \ PEDAL CYCLE | £40 |
| MANMADE \ CONVEYANCE \ PEDAL CYCLE | £25 |
| MANMADE \ CONVEYANCE \ PEDAL CYCLE | £18 |
| MANMADE \ CONVEYANCE \ PEDAL CYCLE | £24 |
| MANMADE \ MAIL \ PARCEL/PACKAGE | Awaiting results |

| SUFFOLK | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Description | Total After Deductions |
| MANMADE \ FOOD DRINK \ ALCOHOL | £967.14 |
| MANMADE \ FOOD DRINK \ ALCOHOL \ SPIRIT | Sold as one lot |
| MANMADE \ FOOD DRINK \ ALCOHOL \ BEER | Sold as one lot |
| MANMADE \ FOOD DRINK \ ALCOHOL \ SPIRIT | Sold as one lot |
| MANMADE \ CONVEYANCE \ PEDAL CYCLE | £16.67 |
| MANMADE \ CONVEYANCE \ PEDAL CYCLE | £5.83 |
| MANMADE \ CONVEYANCE \ PEDAL CYCLE | £4.17 |
| MANMADE \ CONVEYANCE \ PEDAL CYCLE | £45.83 |
| MANMADE \ CONVEYANCE \ PEDAL CYCLE | £12.50 |
| MANMADE \ CONVEYANCE \ PEDAL CYCLE | £8.33 |
| MANMADE \ CONVEYANCE \ PEDAL CYCLE | £4.17 |
| MANMADE \ FOOD DRINK \ ALCOHOL \ SPIRIT | £1,168.42 |
| MANMADE \ FOOD DRINK \ ALCOHOL \ SPIRIT | Sold as one lot |

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| MANMADE \ FOOD DRINK \ ALCOHOL \ SPIRIT | Sold as one lot |
| MANMADE \ FOOD DRINK \ ALCOHOL \ SPIRIT | Sold as one lot |
| MANMADE \ FOOD DRINK \ ALCOHOL \ SPIRIT | Sold as one lot |
| MANMADE \ FOOD DRINK \ ALCOHOL \ SPIRIT | Sold as one lot |
| MANMADE \ FOOD DRINK \ ALCOHOL \ SPIRIT | Sold as one lot |
| MANMADE \ FOOD DRINK \ ALCOHOL \ SPIRIT | Sold as one lot |
| MANMADE \ FOOD DRINK \ ALCOHOL \ SPIRIT | Sold as one lot |
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| MANMADE \ FOOD DRINK \ ALCOHOL \ SPIRIT | Sold as one lot |
| MANMADE \ FOOD DRINK \ ALCOHOL \ SPIRIT | Sold as one lot |
| MANMADE \ FOOD DRINK \ ALCOHOL \ SPIRIT | Sold as one lot |
| MANMADE \ CONVEYANCE \ PEDAL CYCLE | £4.17 |
| MANMADE \ CONVEYANCE \ PEDAL CYCLE | £12.00 |
| MANMADE \ CONVEYANCE \ PEDAL CYCLE | £4.17 |
| MANMADE \ CONVEYANCE \ PEDAL CYCLE | £54.17 |
| MANMADE \ CONVEYANCE \ PEDAL CYCLE | £41.67 |
| MANMADE \ CONVEYANCE \ PEDAL CYCLE | £2.50 |
| MANMADE \ CONVEYANCE \ PEDAL CYCLE | £91.67 |

The number of vehicle seizures have been provided below:

| Reason for Seizure | Number |
|----------------------------|--------|
| SUFFOLK | |
| PACE | 198 |
| Section 165 – Both | 218 |
| Section 165 – No Insurance | 1,194 |
| Section 165 – No Licence | 163 |
| Section 59 | 3 |
| NORFOLK | |
| PACE | 437 |
| Section 165 – Both | 197 |
| Section 165 – No Insurance | 1,489 |
| Section 165 – No Licence | 173 |
| Section 59 | 17 |

Q2 The Police Property Act Fund is created from the proceeds of sales of goods, recovered by the Police, that cannot be returned to their original owner. In accordance with the Police Property Act regulations, all awards from the fund must be for charitable purposes. The main aim of the fund is to support local projects undertaken by voluntary/charitable organisations that solely benefit the communities of Norfolk/Suffolk.

This response will be published on the Constabularies web-site under the Freedom of Information pages:-

<https://www.norfolk.police.uk/about-us/our-data/disclosure-log>
<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/services/freedom-information/disclosure-logs>

Should you have any further queries concerning this request, please contact Amanda Gibson, 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 40 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
Norfolk Constabulary
Operations and Communications Centre
Jubilee House
Falconers Chase
Wymondham
Norfolk NR18 0WW
OR
Email: freedomofinformation@norfolk.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 20 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