



## **Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 000881-19**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 4 March 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *“Please list all the offences that have been dealt with by a caution in the last four years. Eg. Theft, Burglary, Rape.*
2. *Please provide the number of people given cautions for each of the offences listed in the last four years.*
3. *If possible please provide information of offenders who have received a caution more than once for the same crime.*

*By the last four years I mean 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018. Please provide the data in a table broken down into each calendar year. For the purposes of this FOI I am interested in cautions being given instead of a prison sentence.”*

### **Response to your Request**

The response provided below is correct as of 8 March 2019

Suffolk Constabulary has considered your request for information and the response is below.

It is not possible to identify the number of persons who have received a caution for the same type of offence as a result in a change in our crime recording system in October 2015. Data from the legacy system was not back record converted and we would be required to cross reference all caution data with the relevant suspect details to establish whether they have received a caution previously for that same offence.

There were over 4000 unique iterations or nominal numbers associated with the cautions issued during the 2015 – 2018 calendar years and at a search of 3 minutes per person it would take in excess of 200 hours to extract the data requested.

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. Suffolk 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 Suffolk 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.

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 Constabulary's crime system for all offences recorded that have an outcome of Caution.

The offences that were dealt with by way of a caution are provided in the table below, including the total number of persons to whom the caution was given.

The data includes both cautions and conditional cautions for both youths and adults.

<b>Offence Group</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Arson And Criminal Damage	30	130	116	102
Burglary	1	13	19	7
Burglary Dwelling	10			
Burglary Non-Dwelling	8			
Crime Other	66			
Criminal Damage	159			
Drug Offences	248	184	236	199
Fraud And Forgery	3		2	



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Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	6	24	25	12
Possession Of Weapons	4	36	29	25
Public Order Offences	12	115	105	121
Robbery	6	2	5	2
Sexual Offences	23	25	18	11
Theft	43	176	174	140
Theft From Motor Vehicle	2			
Theft Of MV Inc. TWOC	6			
Theft Other	217			
Vehicle Offences	2	6	8	17
Violence Against The Person	771	527	487	522
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1617</b>	<b>1238</b>	<b>1224</b>	<b>1158</b>

There is clear guidance for police when dealing with criminal cases, with decision making processes focusing on the victim, circumstances, type of offence and how serious it is. The offender's history will be assessed along with the views of and the impact on communities. Consideration will be given to any local, regional and national guidance and direction. In some cases the Constabulary will consult with partners such as the Youth Offending Team or Crown Prosecution Service in order to achieve the most appropriate outcome for the circumstances.

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/>

Suffolk Constabulary is 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 Suffolk Constabulary to review their decision.

Ask Suffolk Constabulary to look at the decision again.

If you are dissatisfied with the decision made by Suffolk Constabulary under the Freedom of Information Act (2000), regarding access to information, you must notify Suffolk Constabulary that you are requesting a review within 40 working 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 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 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