



29<sup>th</sup> March 2019

### **Freedom of Information Request Reference N<sup>o</sup>: FOI 000920/19**

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following data recorded with your police force between 29th November 2016 to 28th February 2019.

- 1 How many alleged sex offences were reported to your force with the alleged victim / victims being under 18 and the alleged perpetrator / perpetrators being under 18.
- 2 How many alleged sex offences were reported to your force with the alleged victim / victims being under 18 and the alleged perpetrator/ perpetrators being under 18 attended the same school.

Of that figure:

- A how many "peer on peer" sex offences reported were the victim/victims and perpetrator/perpetrators of primary school age.
  - B how many "peer on peer" sex offences reported were the victim/victims of a secondary school age.
  - C how many investigations of child "peer on peer" sex offences resulted in no further action
  - D How many offences of child "peer on peer" reported were for rape.
- 3 How many alleged "peer on peer" sex offences reported to your force took place on a school premises. (School premises includes everything within the school property boundaries and also extends to include other settings or any venue managed by the school at the time e.g. premises of a school trip or visit.)

Of that figure:

- A how many "peer on peer" sex offences reported were the victim/victims and perpetrator/perpetrators of primary school age.
- B how many "peer on peer" sex offences reported were the victim/victims of a secondary school age.
- C how many investigations of child "peer on peer" sexual offences resulted in no further action
- D how many investigations of child "peer on peer" sexual offences resulted in charges being brought.
- E How many of those child "peer on peer" sexual offences reported to your force are for rape.

### **Response to your Request**

The response provided below is correct as of 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

When responding to a request for information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, a public authority is not obliged to provide information if the authority estimates that the cost of the retrieval of the information requested would be in excess of £450 (equivalent to 18 hours work).

The costs criteria relates to a request in its entirety, which means that if we cannot retrieve all of the information requested within the costs limit, we are not obliged to retrieve *any* of the information requested.

The Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies estimates that to retrieve all the information you have requested for both forces would exceed cost in excess of £450 (per force).

Between 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016 and 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019, there have been 1,692 sexual offences recorded in Norfolk and Suffolk where, based on the recorded dates of birth, both the victim and alleged offender were aged under 18. With regard to question 2, it is not possible to confirm those occasions where both the victim and alleged perpetrator attend the same school without reading through the details of each record.

Based on 3 to 5 minutes each, this would be a significant task which would considerably exceed the appropriate limit for dealing with a Freedom of Information request, in terms of costs, and therefore Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act applies.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 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 2004, defines the ‘appropriate limit’ for the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies as £450 for each Constabulary, and specifies that this sum equates to 18 hours work at a standard rate of £25 per hour.

In accordance with Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000), this serves as a Refusal Notice for your request.

#### Advice and Assistance

Although excess cost removes Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relevant to your request, which was 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.

Number of recorded sexual offence crimes where both the victim and suspect were aged under 18 years:-

- Norfolk 887
- Suffolk 805

There are 130 crimes in Norfolk and 129 in Suffolk where both the victim and suspect are aged between 4 and 11 years.

There are 425 crimes in Norfolk and 436 in Suffolk where both the victim and suspect are aged between 12 and 16 years.

Number of reports of rape:-

- Norfolk 230
- Suffolk 206

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](mailto: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](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