



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 000939-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 7 March 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

“Under a freedom of Information request, could you provide me with the following information covering the period 2013 to 2018 (inclusive): -

- 1) Total number of assaults on Officers, broken down per year?*
- 2) Total number of assaults on Officers involving Fireworks, broken down per year?*
- 3) Total number of assaults on Officers involving Dogs, broken down per year?*
- 4) Total number of prosecutions for firework misuse/abuse, broken down per year.*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 7 March 2019

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

Assaults on police officers with an injury have only been recorded as a category in its own right since April 2017. Prior to this time, assaults on officers that resulted in an injury would have been recorded under the specific violent offence heading such as GBH, ABH and Common Assault etc.

The occupation of the victim is non-mandatory and is seldom completed therefore, in order to extract the number of occasion an officer has been assaulted and sustained an injury prior to April 2017, would require a manual review of all relevant violent offences to establish whether many related to an assault of a police officer.

Considering the many hundreds of offences that are recorded in any one month, this would be an onerous task and one which would well exceed the time constraints of the Act.

Additionally, we would not be able to establish the number of assaults that resulted in no injury but involved a firework or dog as this would require a manual review of all relevant offences.

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 previous response, reference 001103-19 attached, confirms all assault on police offences recorded since the offence was introduced in April 2017.

For those occasions where an injury has resulted in a referral to occupational Health, the information is recorded and has been provided in the table below. None of the injuries sustained were recorded to have been caused by a firework.

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Total Assaults	49	42	59	59	146
Assaults involving Dogs	5	1	2	4	6

The number of persons charged as a result of firework misuse is provided in the table below, the Constabulary does not hold conviction data. Please note that as the offence of 'Explosive Act 1875 – Throwing, casting or firing any fireworks in or into any highway, street, public place etc' is a non-notifiable offence, it has only been recorded on the Constabulary's current crime system, which was introduced in October 2015.



Year	Total
2016	2
2017	4
2018	9

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/>

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*

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 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