



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 000941-19

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 the Freedom of Information Act I request the following information for the years 2013 to 2018 inclusive as well as the most up-to-date records for 2019:

The number of stop and searches police officers recorded

- o A breakdown of gender, age, race/ethnicity
- o Record of reason person was searched
- o An inventory of items found and confiscated

The number of arrests resulting from a stop and search

- o A list of offences for arrest”

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 12 March 2019

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

The Constabulary is unable to provide confirmation as to all items that have been located as the result of a stop and search. The outcome of the stop search does not generally identify what the item was that was found, if any and we would need to review all records to establish the number for this question alone.

Additionally, records held on the old stop and search database, which includes stop and search data for 2013 and part of 2014, does not confirm whether an individual was arrested or not in over half of the cases, which would require a manual review of those records to establish whether an individual was arrested or not.

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.

Data has been extracted from the new stop and search data and the tables below confirm the total number of stop and searches recorded; the total number by gender and race/ethnicity; and the outcome.

The ages have not been provided as none of the ages from 2015 onwards have been completed.

Search Description	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Anticipated Violence (S60 CJPO)		4			44	
Articles to cause Criminal Damage (S1 PACE)	2	35	23	10	14	4
Drugs (S23 Misuse of Drugs Act)	252	1947	1340	1244	1192	103
Firearms (S47 Firearms Act)	3	59	37	9	28	2
Going Equipped (S1 PACE)	16	195	76	65	115	9
Offensive Weapons (S1 PACE)	12	173	154	171	233	18
Offensive Weapons (S139-CJA, Schools)	2	17	11	10	4	
Other Power	2	17	8	7	16	1
Psychoactive Substances Act (S36/37)					2	
Stolen Property (S1 PACE)	50	526	293	204	188	18
Grand Total	339	2973	1942	1720	1836	155



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Gender	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
F	34	478	247	200	199	12
M	332	3109	1806	1441	1598	141
N	11	148	120	98	33	2
O					8	
(blank)	1	8	6	7	2	
Grand Total	339	2973	1942	1720	1836	155

Ethnicity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Bangladeshi	1	26	18	21	12	1
Black African	4	62	81	62	20	4
Black Caribbean	6	83	52	58	22	
Black Other	3	50	61	59	81	4
Chinese		3			1	
Indian		6	6	10	4	2
Mixed African	2	14	10	12	8	3
Mixed Asian	1	13	6	12	41	
Mixed Caribbean	5	63	51	32	19	
Not stated	12	107	87	108	169	17
Other	1	32	7	4	30	6
Other Asian	8	21	25	12	19	1
Other Mixed	6	43	25	33	43	2
Pakistani		9	6	5	3	
White British	308	2917	1591	1173	1104	93
White Irish	1	33	4	15	3	1
White Other	20	261	149	130	261	21
Grand Total	339	2973	1942	1720	1836	155

Outcome	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
2 - Advised	12					
5 - Other	4					
Article found - Detailed outcome unavailable				7	84	6
Local resolution	7	73	49	34	47	3

No Category	77	953	421	175	102	10
Nothing found – No further action	229	2182	1267	1030	1097	95
Offender cautioned	8	57	30	28	19	
Offender given drugs possession warning	24	168	107	103	111	12
Offender given penalty notice	3	36	15	11	8	1
Suspect arrested	10	199	240	315	335	27
Suspect summonsed to court	4	75	50	43	34	
Suspected psychoactive substances seized – No further action					3	1
Grand Total	339	2973	1942	1720	1836	155

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