

**Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 000970-19**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 25 February 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *“The number of reported incidents of domestic abuse*
2. *The number of Domestic Violence Protection Notices issued by your force; the number of DVPN breaches reported; and the number of DVPN breaches recorded as an offence by police*
3. *The number of Domestic Violence Protection Orders granted by a court; the number of DVPO breaches reported; and the number of DVPO breaches recorded as an offence by police*
4. *The outcomes of those breaches (e.g. arrested; charged)”*

**Response to your Request**

The response provided below is correct as of 14 March 2019

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

1. The total number of reported incidents of domestic abuse during the 2014 – 2018 calendar years is provided in the table below. Please note that as a result in a change in crime recording system during October 2015, the recording of domestic related offences become much more robust.

Year	Domestic related offences
2014	8,785
2015	7,852
2016	10,393
2017	11,304
2018	10,223

2. The number of Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPN) issued by your force and the number of breaches is as follows.

Suffolk Constabulary has a policy of considering DVPN/O for all high risk domestic investigations with training and support provided for all officers to ensure these are used wherever applicable to protect the most vulnerable Domestic abuse victims.

The rise in numbers being applied for shows this approach is working and providing victims with valuable breathing space to be able to access services to support their long term ability to break the cycle of abuse.

Year	DVPNs granted	DVPNs breached
2014	12	0
2015	20	2
2016	18	1
2017	31	1
2018	56	3

With regards to the number of DVPN breaches recorded, a breach of DVPN is not a criminal offence, although a person can still be arrested if they breach one

3. The total number of Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPO) granted by a court is as follows:

Year	DVPOs granted	DVPOs breached
2014	12	3
2015	20	2
2016	16	5
2017	27	5
2018	52	7

With regards to the number of DVPO breaches recorded, a breach of DVPO is treated as a civil contempt of court, under section 63 of the Magistrates' Court Act 1980 (MCA). Therefore these aren't recorded as an offence by police.

4. The outcomes of those breaches (e.g. arrested; charged)

Year	Breach of ?	Result
2014	DVPO	Result not known
2014	DVPO	Arrested; Fined
2014	DVPO	Arrested; Withdrawn from court



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2015	DVPN	Arrested; DVPO issued
2015	DVPN	Arrested; DVPO issued
2015	DVPO	Arrested; 7 days imprisonment
2015	DVPO	Arrested; 16 days imprisonment
2016	DVPO	Arrested; Fined
2016	DVPN	Arrested; DVPO issued
2016	DVPO	Arrested; Fined
2016	DVPO	Arrested; Fined
2016	DVPO	Arrested; Fined
2016	DVPO	Arrested; Fined
2016	DVPO	Arrested; Fined
2016	DVPO	Arrested; Withdrawn from court as further offences being heard at Crown Court
2017	DVPO	Arrested; Fined
2017	DVPO	Result not known
2017	DVPO	Arrested; Fined
2017	DVPO	Arrested; Fined
2017	DVPO	Arrested; 1 day custody
2017	DVPN	Arrested; DVPO issued
2018	DVPO	Arrested; Fined
2018	DVPN	Arrested; DVPO issued
2018	DVPO	Arrested; Fined
2018	DVPO	Arrested; Fined
2018	DVPN	Arrested; DVPO not issued
2018	DVPO	Arrested; Dismissed
2018	DVPN	Arrested; DVPO issued
2018	DVPO	Arrested; Fined
2018	DVPO	Arrested; 4 weeks imprisonment
2018	DVPO	Arrested; awaiting confirmation of result

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