



Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 000989-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies on 12 March 2019 which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"Please state the number of dogs that have been seized under the Dangerous Dogs Act by your force during 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.*
2. *Please provide a breakdown of the breeds of dogs that have been seized under the Dangerous Dogs Act in 2018.*
3. *Please provide a breakdown of the breeds of dogs that have been seized under the Dangerous Dogs Act between January 1 and March 10 2019, or as late in March as data is available for.*
4. *If possible, please provide an anonymised copy of the report on the incident that led to the seizure under the Dangerous Dogs Act for the occurred in 2018 and 2019."*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 15 April 2019

Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies have considered your request for information and the response is below.

In respect of question 4, reports will come in through varying means; however the full report details leading to the potential seizures will not always be passed to the Dogs Section. Such reports will be contained within the crime and incident systems, however we would be required to review all relevant calls and offences to extract those that relate specifically to the seizure of a dangerous dog.

Considering there are many hundreds of incidents that we would need to review in order to extract those specifically relevant to the request, it would take well in excess of the allotted timescales permitted under the Act.

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. The Constabularies do not hold, for the purposes of FOIA, all of 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, exceeding 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 Constabularies as £450 and specifies that this sum equates to 18 hours work per force at a standard rate of £25 per hour. This equates to 36 hours of work, or £900, for joint responses.

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 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.

1. The number of dogs seized under the Dangerous Dogs Act between 2014 and 2018 is as follows:

Year	Norfolk	Suffolk
2014	7	8
2015	10	1
2016	8	5
2017	19	5
2018	11	4

2. The breeds of dogs seized during 2018 is as follows:

Norfolk	Suffolk
Border Collie x 2 Pit Bull x 3 Romanian Mongrel x 1 Rottweiler x 4 SharPei Cross x 1	Pit Bull x 3 Staffordshire Bull Terrier x 1

3. During 2019 to date, 7 dogs have been seized in Norfolk and 2 seized in Suffolk. The below table provides a breakdown of the breeds:

Norfolk	Suffolk
American Bully x 1	German Shepherd x 1
Dogue de Bordeaux x 1	Pitt Bull Terrier x 1
Mastiff cross x 1	
Rottweiler x 2	
Rottweiler/Lab cross x 1	
Staffordshire Bull Terrier x 1	

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/>

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 20 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 Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary will aim to respond to your request for us to look at our decision again within 40 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 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