



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 001044-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 15 March 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"How many people were arrested under Section 76 of the Serious Crime Act 2015 for 'Controlling or Coercive Behaviour in an Intimate or Family Relationship' in (please provide data for each full year respectively):
2015
2016
2017
2018*
2. *Please provide a breakdown of the official recorded crime outcomes of the arrests set out above in Q1 (charged, cautioned, no further action etc.), for each of the 4 years respectively: 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.*
3. *Please can you provide the ages and gender of those charged or cautioned for the offences mentioned in Q1 for 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018"*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 22 March 2019

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

The Constabulary is unable to provide arrest data prior to the introduction of the current crime and custody system Athena, which was introduced in October 2015. Arrest data prior to this time is held on a legacy system which is no longer available for bulk data extraction and consequently we would be required to manually review the data held to extract relevant arrest data.

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.

The specific offence was only introduced on 29 December 2015 and therefore the information provided below starts from this point onwards.

The total number of offences of Coercive / Controlling Behaviour is provided in the table below by year and outcome.

Crime Outcome	2016	2017	2018
Not Recorded	1	2	13
Type 1 - Charged/Summoned/Postal Requisition	9	15	18
Type 12 - Prosecution Prevented-Named Suspect Identified But Is Too Ill (Physical Or Mental Health) To Prosecute	1		
Type 13 - Prosecution Prevented-Named Suspect Identified But Victim Or Key Witness Is Dead Or Too Ill To Give Evidence			1
Type 15 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties	19	31	60
Type 16 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties	23	28	42
Type 18 - Investigation Complete; No Suspect Identified.	1		
Type 1A - Charged/Summons - alternate offence.	7	8	4
Type 20 - Further action resulting from the crime report will be undertaken by another body or agency		1	
Type 2A - Caution Youth - alternate offence	1		
Type 3 - Caution Adult	1		1



Type 3A - Caution Adult - alternate offence	1	1	
Type 8 - Community resolution (Crime)	1		
Type 9 - Prosecution Not In the Public Interest (CPS)	1	1	1
Grand Total	66	87	140

The age and gender for those persons cautioned or charged, is as follows:

DETAINEE GENDER	DETAINEE AGES	2016	2017	2018
Female	29		1	
Male	17	1		
	18	1	1	1
	20		2	
	22		2	
	23		1	2
	24		1	
	25	2		
	26			2
	27		1	2
	28	1	1	3
	30	1		
	31	1		
	32		2	
	33	2	2	1
	34			1
	35	1		1
	36	1	1	1
	37	1		
	39			1
	40	1		
41	1		1	
43		1	1	
44	1			
46			1	
48	1			



**SUFFOLK
CONSTABULARY**
Taking pride in keeping Suffolk safe

	49			1
	50	1		
	52	1		
	53		2	
	55	1		
	56		1	
	58		1	
	59		1	1
	60		1	
	64			1
	69		1	
	70		1	
	71			1
Not Recorded	Not Recorded			1
Grand Total		19	24	23

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