



## **Freedom of Information Request Reference N<sup>o</sup>: FOI 001086-19**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 18 March 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. "The total number of arrests made against people who were violent, abusive or aggressive towards NHS staff in clinical settings for the following time periods:  
2018-2019, or up until the most recent month available  
2017-2018  
2016-2017  
2015-2016  
2014-2015
  
2. The number of reports that police have received about NHS staff being assaulted in clinical settings, for the following time periods:  
2018-2019, or up until the most recent month available  
2017-2018  
2016-2017  
2015-2016  
2014-2015  
  
Reports can include but are not exclusive to 999 calls, 101 calls and in-person complaints at the station or to an officer.
  
3. The number of criminal sanctions (including but not exclusive to written warning, fine, etc.) that resulted from those arrests, for the following time periods:  
2018-2019, or up until the most recent month available  
2017-2018  
2016-2017  
2015-2016  
2014-2015
  
4. A breakdown of the data for questions 1 to 3 provided by the type of offence in relation to violence, abuse and aggression towards NHS staff in clinical settings – for example: racial abuse, sexual abuse, assault and battery.
  
5. A breakdown of the data provided for questions 2 to 4 by the legislation used e.g. Assault Against Emergency Workers Act or Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act 1994."

## **Response to your Request**



The response provided below is correct as of 28 March 2019

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

The victim occupation is only available on crime data, although it is a non-mandatory field. Therefore, we would not be able to provide arrest data without manually reviewing each arrest and cross referencing with the relevant crime record to establish whether the victim occupation has been completed. Considering this would involve a manual review of all violent arrests, it would take an excessive amount of time to extract the data. Even at a minute per arrest, there are thousands we would need to review and this would be an enormous task.

Additionally, with regards to reports from the call system, there is no occupation field and the only way to establish whether the report related to an NHS member of staff would be to review each and every call recorded for the time frame requested. Considering there are hundreds of calls recorded in any one day, this would also take an enormous amount of time.

Finally concerning crime data, we have confirmed above that the occupation of the victim is non-mandatory and there will be hundreds of offences where this is not completed. Additionally, the crime system only records the occupation of an individual relating to their most recent contact with the Constabulary. Therefore, it is plausible that an individual could have been the victim of an assault whilst working for the NHS, however has since come to police attention in another occupation. Consequently the assault will not appear in this return.

To establish an accurate number of crimes against NHS staff would require us to review all of the offences with a blank occupation to extract those that relate to NHS staff. For the 2018 calendar year this related to 249 offences and at 2 minutes per offence, would take in excess of 8 hours per year to establish.

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 data provided below relates to all offences where the victims occupation is one of those listed below and has a location of hospital/surgery etc. noting that this data does not identify whether the victim was actually working at the time of the offence. We are also unable to confirm if the location was NHS or private.

Crimes dated 1 January 2014 – 19 October 2015: Hospital and Surgery with Occupation of Nurse, Support Worker, Consultant, Doctor, Health Care, Hospital Staff, Mental Health, Occupational Therapist, Care Worker, Paramedic, Administrator, Reception.

Crimes dated 19 October 2015 – 31 December 2018: Hospital/Hospice and Doctor's Surgery/Clinic with Occupation of Ambulance Service, Dental Hygienist, Doctor, Hospital Staff, Porter, Nurse, Care Worker.

Offence / Outcome	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
<b>Assault occasioning actual bodily harm</b>			
A - Charge/summons	1	8	10
B - Caution	2	1	
N - Other			2
<b>Causing Intentional Harassment, Alarm Or Distress</b>			
A - Charge/summons		1	
N - Other		1	
<b>Common assault &amp; battery</b>			
A - Charge/summons	6	8	4
B - Caution		1	1
N - Other		6	2



<b>Fear Or Provocation Of Violence</b>			
A - Charge/summons		3	1
<b>Harassment</b>			
N - Other		1	
<b>Harassment, Alarm Or Distress</b>			
A - Charge/summons	1	2	
<b>Putting people in fear of violence</b>			
N - Other			1
<b>Racially Aggravated Fear Or Provocation Of Violence</b>			
N - Other		1	
<b>Racially or religiously aggravated assault or assault occasioning actual bodily harm</b>			
A - Charge/summons		1	
<b>Racially or religiously aggravated common assault or beating</b>			
A - Charge/summons		1	
<b>Racially or religiously aggravated harassment, alarm or distress</b>			
A - Charge/summons		2	
N - Other			1
<b>Racially or religiously aggravated intentional harassment, alarm or distress</b>			
A - Charge/summons		2	
N - Other		2	
<b>Sexual Assault On A Female</b>			
A - Charge/summons			1
N - Other		1	
<b>Threats to kill</b>			
A - Charge/summons		2	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>23</b>

Offence / Outcome	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19
<b>Assault with Injury - Assault occasioning actual bodily harm</b>				
Not Recorded				1
Type 1 - Charged/Summoned/Postal Requisition	1	3		
Type 12 - Prosecution Prevented-Named Suspect Identified But Is Too Ill (Physical Or Mental Health) To Prosecute	1		2	
Type 16 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties		2		
Type 17 - Prosecution Time Limit Expired: Suspect Identified But Prosecution Time Limit Has Expired		1		



Type 1A - Charged/Summons - alternate offence.		1		
Type 8 - Community resolution (Crime)	1			
<b>Assault with Injury - Malicious wounding: wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm (Minor wound or equivalent)</b>				
Type 1 - Charged/Summoned/Postal Requisition		1		
Type 15 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties			1	
<b>Assault without Injury - Common assault and battery</b>				
Not Recorded			1	1
Type 1 - Charged/Summoned/Postal Requisition		2	1	1
Type 12 - Prosecution Prevented-Named Suspect Identified But Is Too Ill (Physical Or Mental Health) To Prosecute	6	3		
Type 16 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties		2		2
Type 8 - Community resolution (Crime)	2			
<b>Harassment</b>				
Not Recorded			1	
Type 12 - Prosecution Prevented-Named Suspect Identified But Is Too Ill (Physical Or Mental Health) To Prosecute		1		
<b>Sending letters etc with intent to cause distress or anxiety</b>				
Type 8 - Community resolution (Crime)		1		
Not Recorded			1	
<b>Sexual assault on a female</b>				
Type 16 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties			1	
Type 3A - Caution Adult - alternate offence.		1		
<b>Threats to kill</b>				
Not Recorded			1	
Type 12 - Prosecution Prevented-Named Suspect Identified But Is Too Ill (Physical Or Mental Health) To Prosecute		1		
Type 16 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties		1		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>

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/>



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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