



Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 001103-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies on 20 March 2019 which you sought access to the following information:

1. *“For 2018; a breakdown of recorded assaults on police officers, including year, MOPI GROUP / HO Code Description and summary of the incident.*
2. *Same for 2017”*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 26 March 2019

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

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. It is considered that to provide an answer to your request will take in excess of 36 hours to provide the information.

Since April 2017, assaults on Police Officers have been recorded to state with or without an injury, prior to this date Suffolk and Norfolk Constabulary only had an offence category for assaults on officers with no injury. If an injury had occurred, this would be recorded under the specific violence offence category, for example ABH, GBH etc. In order to extract the assaults with injury prior to April 2017, would involve a manual read through all relevant offence categories to establish if the victim was a police officer or not. Whilst there is a field for the victim occupation this is not mandatory, and is often left blank on a crime report.

To manually review all violent offence categories pre April 2017 would be a very time consuming task and would way exceed statutory time restraints of the FOI Act.

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.

The information provided in the table below confirms the total number of Assaults on Police Officers for 2017 and 2018.

Suffolk		
Offence	2017	2018
Assault Police - Assault with Injury - Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	56	79
Assault Police - Assault with Injury - Malicious wounding: wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm (Minor wound or equivalent)	13	10
Assault Police - Assault with Intent to cause Serious Harm - Wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm		1
Assault Police - Wounding with intent to resist/prevent arrest	2	3
Assault Police Cause GBH with intent to resist/prevent arrest.	1	1
Assault without injury on a constable (NOT covered by the Police Act 1996)	1	
Assault without injury on a constable (Police Act offence)	278	309
Grand Total	351	403

Norfolk		
Offence	2017	2018
Assault Police - Assault with Injury - Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	91	124
Assault Police - Assault with Injury - Malicious wounding: wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm (Minor wound or equivalent)	9	15
Assault Police - Assault with Injury - Malicious wounding: wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm (Serious wound or equivalent)	2	1

Assault Police - Wounding with intent to resist/prevent arrest	2	4
Assault Police Cause GBH with intent to resist/prevent arrest.		2
Assault without injury on a constable (NOT covered by the Police Act 1996)	1	
Assault without injury on a constable (Police Act offence)	376	400
Attempted - Assault without injury on a constable (Police Act offence)	1	
Grand Total	482	546

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/>

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