



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

## **Freedom of Information Request Reference N<sup>o</sup>: FOI 001235-18**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

*“For each of the past 3 calendar years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 (to date) how many knife crime and/or firearm offences did your police force record which involved any of the websites outlined below?”*

- *YouTube*
- *Facebook*
- *SnapChat*
- *Instagram*
- *Twitter*
- *Periscope*
- *Kick”*

## **Response to your Request**

The response provided below is correct as of 4<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

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

A search has been completed of the Constabulary's crime information systems for all violent offences recorded that relate to the possession of a weapon.

The information was then filtered to include those that mentioned the below stated social media sites and those that included the possession of the below weapons:

**Social media:** YouTube, Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter, Periscope, Kick

**Weapons:** Knife, Knives, Blade, Razor, Axe, Scissors, Sword, Machete, Firearm, Shotgun, Air Rifle

The below table provides those recorded offences, broken down by year, offence, and social media site:



| <b>Year</b>        | <b>Offence</b>  | <b>Social Media</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|--------------------|---|---------------------|--------------|
| <b>2015</b>        | Assault occasioning actual bodily harm  | Facebook            | 2            |
|                    | Common assault & battery  | Facebook            | 1            |
|                    | Fear Or Provocation Of Violence   | Facebook            | 1            |
|                    | Having an article with a blade or point on school premises                    | Facebook            | 1            |
|                    | Minor wound without intent - Sec 20   | Facebook            | 2            |
|                    | Possessing etc firearms or ammunition without firearm certificate             | Facebook            | 1            |
|                    | Possession of other offensive weapon on school premises                       | Facebook            | 1            |
|                    | Putting people in fear of violence  | Twitter             | 1            |
|                    | Racially or religiously aggravated harassment, alarm or distress              | Facebook            | 1            |
|                    | Threats to kill   | Facebook            | 2            |
|                    | Wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm                               | Facebook            | 4            |
| <b>2016</b>        | Possessing firearm or imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence | SnapChat            | 1            |
| <b>2017</b>        | Possession of offensive weapon without lawful authority or reasonable excuse  | Facebook            | 1            |
| <b>Grand Total</b> |   |                     | <b>19</b>    |

***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.***

***Please be aware that the information provided/researched from the 19 October 2015 has been extracted from the Athena crime system. The information provided is subject to change as processes are amended to ensure accurate and precise crime recording.***

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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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 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](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