



30th April 2019

Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 001249/19

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies on the 1st April 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. How many police vehicles have been involved in traffic collisions over the last three financial years?
2. For each of the financial years 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19, please break these down by:
 - a. How many of these incidents occurred during emergency calls, and how many did not?
 - b. How many of these incidents involved injuries? And for those involving injuries, please break down the figures to show how many of these involved: i) injuries to police officers, b) the driver/rider of a suspect vehicle, or c) members of the public?
 - c. How many of these incidents involved fatalities? And for those involving fatalities, please break down the figures to show how many of these were: a) police officers, b) the driver/rider of a suspect vehicle, or c) members of the public?
 - d. How much compensation was paid to victims?
3. How many police vehicles were damaged in traffic collisions over the last three financial years (2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19)?
4. For each of the financial years 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19, please break these down by:
 - a. How many police vehicles were damaged (including written off) as a result of the collisions? Please break these down by type of vehicle if possible (car, van, motorbike etc).
 - b. How many police vehicles were written off as a result of the collisions? Please break these down by type of vehicle if possible (car, van, motorbike etc).
 - c. What was the cost of repairing the damage or replacing the vehicles? Please break these down by type of vehicle if possible (car, van, motorbike etc).

Response to your Request

Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies have considered your request and our response is below:-

When responding to a request for information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, a public authority is not obliged to provide information if the authority estimates that the cost of the retrieval of the information requested would be in excess of £450 (equivalent to 18 hours work).

The costs criteria relates to a request in its entirety, which means that if we cannot retrieve *all* of the information requested within the costs limit, we are not obliged to retrieve *any* of the information requested.

The Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies estimate that to retrieve all the information you have requested would exceed cost in excess of £450 per force.

It is not possible to retrieve all of the requested information within the 36 hour time limit. Information relating to your request is held in Joint Transport Services, Legal Services and the Insurance Section within the Joint Finance Department. Over 10 hours of research has already been carried out by these Departments in order to identify relevant information.

With regard to question 1, information is not held within Transport Services for Suffolk Constabulary for 2016/17. Collision information may be held elsewhere, but it is not possible to determine whether this would be within incident reports, individual department/officer records, without carrying out a manual trawl.

Additionally, with regard to questions 2b, 4a and 4b, every claim would need to be reviewed in order to provide the specific level of detail that has been requested.

To carry out this further research would be an enormous task which would significantly exceed the appropriate limit for dealing with a Freedom of Information request, in terms of cost, and therefore Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act applies.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 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 2004, defines the 'appropriate limit' for the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies as £450 each, and specifies that this sum equates to 18 hours work at a standard rate of £25 per hour.

In accordance with Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000), this serves as a Refusal Notice for your request.

Advice and Assistance

Although excess cost removes Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relevant to your request, which was 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 following information has been received from Transport Services, Legal Services and the Insurance Section.

NORFOLK

Question 1
2016/17 - 202

2017/18 - 261
2018/19 - 234

Question 2

2a 2016/17 - 21 on emergency calls
2017/18 - 42 on emergency calls
2018/19 - 34 on emergency calls

2c 2016/17 - 0
2017/18 - 1
2018/19 - 0

2d 2016/17 - £52,885.61
2017/18 - £57,100.81
2018/19 - £17,714.96

Question 3

2016/17 – 89
2017/18 – 95
2018/19 – 81

Question 4

4c 2016-2017 - £133,526.32
2017-2018 - £141,787.93
2018-2019 - £139,601.02

SUFFOLK

Question 1

2017/18 – 181
2018/19 – 207

Question 2

2a 2017/18 - 9 on emergency calls
2018/19 - 33 on emergency calls

2c 2016/17 - 0
2017/18 - 0
2018/19 - 1 member of the public

2d 2016/17 - £28,202.92
2017/18 - £26,098.49
2018/19 - £28,723.25

Question 3

2016/17 - 109
2017/18 - 109
2018/19 - 121

Question 4

4c 2016/17 - £127,807.33
2017/18 - £106,974.79
2018/19 - £187,725.10

* Please note in relation to the compensation figures that have been provided for both Norfolk and Suffolk, these are those have been 'paid to date', many claims are still on-going and therefore figures may vary.

This response will be published on the Constabularies web-site under the Freedom of Information pages:-

<https://www.norfolk.police.uk/about-us/our-data/disclosure-log>
<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/services/freedom-information/disclosure-logs>

Should you have any further queries concerning this request, please contact Amanda Gibson, 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 40 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
Norfolk Constabulary
Operations and Communications Centre
Jubilee House
Falconers Chase
Wymondham
Norfolk NR18 0WW
OR
Email: freedomofinformation@norfolk.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 20 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