

**Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 001281-19**

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

1. *"Please can you supply a breakdown of knife crime offences for the calendar years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and to the end of March 2019 by individual neighbourhoods within the boundaries of your police force.*
2. *Please can you give a breakdown for the calendar years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and to the end of March 2019 by individual neighbourhoods of knife crime offences, broken down by:*
  - a) *Homicide*
  - b) *Assault with injury and assault with intent to cause serious harm*
  - c) *Robbery*
3. *Please can you give a breakdown for the calendar years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and to the end of March 2019 by individual neighbourhoods of knife crime offences, broken down by the number resulting in a charge or summons.*
4. *Please can you give a breakdown for 2018 calendar year of knife crime offences by ethnicity of the victim by individual neighbourhoods; please use the categories a) black, b) white, c) Asian, d) mixed and e) other (as per ONS categories).*
5. *Please can you give a breakdown for 2018 calendar year of knife crime offences by ethnicity of the suspect by individual neighbourhoods; please use the categories a) black, b) white, c) Asian, d) mixed and e) other (as per ONS categories).*
6. *Please can you give a breakdown for 2018 calendar year of knife crime offences by age of the victims by individual neighbourhoods; please use the categories a) Under 18, b) 18-24, c) 25-34, d) 35-44, e) 45-54 and f) 55+*
7. *Please can you give a breakdown for 2018 calendar year of knife crime offences by age of the suspects by individual neighbourhoods; please use the categories a) Under 18, b) 18-24, c) 25-34, d) 35-44, e) 45-54 and f) 55+*
8. *Please can you give a breakdown for 2018 calendar year of knife crime offences by gender of the victims by individual neighbourhoods;*



9. *Please can you give a breakdown for 2018 calendar year of knife crime offences by gender of the suspects by individual neighbourhoods;”*

### **Response to your Request**

The response provided below is correct as of 12 April 2019

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. Please note that during the 2016/17 financial year, a business rule approach was implemented for knife crime data collection, to ensure the data was more accurate than using a generic freetext search or being reliant on specified keywords. Therefore, data

The information was then filtered to include those that included the possession of a 'knife', 'Knives', 'Blade', 'Axe', 'Scissors', 'Sword' or 'Machete'.

The information provided within the attached spreadsheet confirms the following:

- The number of knife crime offences recorded by the policing district and by offence
- The outcome of those offences
- The self-defined ethnicity of the victims (where recorded)
- The self-defined ethnicity of the suspects (where recorded)
- The age bands of the victims (where recorded)
- The age bands of the suspects (where recorded)
- The gender of the victims (where recorded)
- The gender of the suspects (where recorded)

Please note that the information prior to 19 October 2015 has been sourced from a legacy crime system, and the results provided are not comparable due to the differences in crimes recording.

Please be aware that the suspect figures are not representative of the number of offences as there can be more than one suspect per offence.

***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](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