



## **Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 001360-18**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 13 April 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"For the calendar years 2015, 2016, 2017 and the period 1st January 2018 to 12th April 2018, could you tell me the number of unlicensed music events/illegal raves reported to your force?"*
2. *If it is within the time/cost limit, could you tell me how arrests were made in response to these reports of unlicensed music events/illegal raves? If it is not within the time/cost limit, please provide an answer to question 1 only."*

### **Response to your Request**

The response provided below is correct as of 13 April 2018.

Suffolk Constabulary has 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. 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.

Suffolk Constabulary does not have a means to extract calls that specifically relate to raves or music events. We can complete free text searches for those calls that contain relevant words, but this will extract a far higher number and would not accurately reflect the number of calls specifically pertaining to this topic area.

Each call would need to be reviewed manually and considering the many hundreds we receive in any one day, this would well exceed the time constraints of the 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 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.

The Constabulary has completed a freetext search of the first two lines of the incident text for all those that contain the words 'rave'. This located over 300 calls for the time frame. Each was manually reviewed and the total number of calls that related specifically to a Rave and is provided in the table below.

Please note that the data will not include the complete data as it will exclude any calls where the word 'Rave' is not specifically mentioned and will also not include any calls that do not mention this term, but perhaps refer to it as an unlicensed event etc.

Year Reported	Calls relating to 'Raves'
2015	108
2016	67
2017	60
2018	4
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>239</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.***

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 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