

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 001381-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 25th April, 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"We request data as follows:*
 - a. *Number of ALL criminal complaints overall referred to Suffolk Constabulary during the current PCC's tenure in office, broken down annually by previous years to YTD, and under which prosecution heading(s).*
 - b. *Of these, how many criminal complaints were fraud related, (including but not restricted to cyber fraud, white collar fraud, employee fraud, business fraud and all frauds under the Fraud Act.)*
 - c. *Of these, which how many were actually prosecuted by Suffolk Constabulary.*

2. *We also request data appertaining to number of perjury complaints were dealt with by Suffolk Constabulary during the current PCC's tenure in office, annualised, and including details of how many were actually prosecuted.*

3. *We further request details, during the current PCC's tenure in office, annualised, to YTD, how many dedicated, specialist officers were / are allocated exclusively to fraud investigation & prosecution.*
 - a. *If it is not possible to produce records over the last ten years, then the last five years to date would have to suffice.*
 - b. *We request specific details of the actual training regime, and resume / qualifications necessary to qualify as a dedicated fraud officer / investigator.*

4. *The nature of our FOI request is primarily related to resource, skillset, appetite, and credentials of officers provided by Suffolk Constabulary dedicated to the successful prosecution of FRAUD, (and perjury), related to business, as provided for under the various offenses covered by the FRAUD ACT.*
 - a. *Consequently, we also request details of how many cases during the same time period, did Suffolk Constabulary pursue financial recovery for victims under the RECOVERY of PROCEEDS of CRIME legislation.*
 - b. *It would be useful to know the detailed process for victims to pursue a PROCEEDS of CRIME claim, via Suffolk Constabulary.*

5. *Finally, since you refer to it in your letter, please submit details of the number of complaints made against Suffolk Constabulary during the current PCC's tenure in office, the specific nature of these complaints, and their results.*
 - a. *Please also submit the average length of time taken to deal with complaints against Suffolk Constabulary, including their Officers & Staff.*
 - b. *Please submit details of the specific methodology to raise a formal complaint against Suffolk Constabulary, including their Officers & Staff.*

- c. *Please provide details, e.g. number of cases, and financial settlements, of legal proceedings taken against Suffolk Constabulary, during the current PCC's tenure in office."*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 17.05.2019

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

1. a. Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires that Suffolk Constabulary, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) is to provide you the applicant with a notice ban which:

- (a) States that fact
- (b) Specifies the exemption(s) in question and
- (c) States (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption(s) applies.

The information is exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption(s);

Section 21(1) - Information reasonably accessible by other means

Information concerning reported crime are published on the Police.UK website and are therefore reasonably accessible by other means as per Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The following links will take you to the <https://www.police.uk/>

- b. The below table confirms the total number of fraud offences recorded between 2012 – 2019, broken down by year.

Year	Total
2012	118
2013	516
2014	587
2015	825
2016	791
2017	866
2018	853
2019	213

- c. Suffolk Constabulary does not record conviction data, which should be sought directly from the Courts.

Information relating to court results can be obtained from CPS via their Freedom of Information Team: <http://www.cps.gov.uk/foi/index.html>

2. The below table confirms the total number of perjury offences recorded between 2012 – 2019, broken down by year noting that there were no offences in 2012, 2016 and 2018.

Year	Total
2013	1
2014	3
2015	2
2017	3
2019	2

3. a. Over the past 5 years, there have been a number of changes to fraud investigation set ups. Historically, fraud was managed by area CID, however since 2015, frauds were managed by the Incident and Crime Management Hub (ICMH) for fraud and the cyber team for pure cyber frauds.

The Constabulary had a fraud team made up of 5 Detective Constables, 1 Detective Sergeant and 1 Detective Inspector from October 2017 until May 2019.

Since May 2019, the Constabulary no longer has a dedicated fraud team, with fraud investigations being managed centrally by the ICMH or CID.

b All detectives are trained to the national 'professionalising investigation programme' (PIP) 2 standard. The PIP 2 Investigator utilises a range of evidence sources and appropriate investigative approaches to safely and effectively investigate serious and complex crimes, with a view to ascertaining whether a person should be charged with an offence or if a person charged with an offence is guilty of that offence. Further information surrounding the skills and training of PIP investigators can be found via the college of policing website at <https://profdev.college.police.uk/professional-profile/investigator-serious-complex-crime-pip2/>

4. In Oct 2014 the Financial Investigation for Beds, Cambs, Herts, Norfolk & Suffolk collaborated into ERSOU (Eastern Regional Special Operations Unit). After this date any Cash Forfeitures & Confiscations obtained in all of these regions is shared between the Five Forces.

The following Compensation from Confiscation Orders were paid to Victims of Crime in the Suffolk Area under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

Year	Total
2015/16	£30,132.70
2016/17	£261,551.50

2017/18	£373,313.48
2018/19	£435,373.00

4. In the period **15 November 2012 to 31 March 2019** a total of 2045 public complaints against Suffolk Constabulary, and officers and staff under the direction and control of the Chief Constable, have been recorded in the Professional Standards Department.

Every public complaint recorded contains at least one allegation. Of the 2045 complaint cases a total of 3655 allegations have been recorded. The allegations are recorded under specific categories and the totals under each category are as follows:

Allegation Category	Total recorded
Breach Code A PACE	12
Breach Code B PACE	50
Breach Code C PACE	190
Breach Code E PACE	1
Corrupt practice	11
Discriminatory Behaviour	80
General policing standards	13
Improper disclosure of information	105
Incivility, impoliteness and intolerance	443
Irregularity in evidence/perjury	65
Lack of fairness and impartiality	201
Mishandling of property	104
Operational management decisions	25
Operational policing policies	26
Oppressive conduct or harassment	283
Organisational decisions	11
Other	20
Other assault	357
Other irregularity in procedure	125
Other neglect or failure in duty	1333
Other sexual conduct	8
Sexual assault	7
Traffic irregularity	43
Unlawful/unnecessary arrest or detention	142

5. Of the 3655 allegations recorded, 3456 have been resulted to date. Details of the allegation outcomes are as follows:

Result description	Total
De Recorded	14
Disapplication	189
Discontinued	53
Dispensation	2
Local Resolution	1193
Not Upheld	1489
Special Requirements	28
Upheld	272
Withdrawn	216

- a. The Independent Office for Police Conduct website publishes quarterly bulletins detailing the timeliness of cases.

<https://www.policeconduct.gov.uk/tags/suffolk-constabulary>

- b. Details of how to make a public complaint are contained on the Suffolk Constabulary website:

Any complaint about the Chief Constable should be made to the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner.

Complaints about anyone else working for the police should be made direct to Suffolk Constabulary in one of the following ways:

- In person, by going to a police station and asking to be seen by a supervisory officer - usually an inspector or sergeant
- By emailing psd@suffolk.pnn.police.uk
- In writing, by sending a letter with a full account of the incident to: Professional Standards Department, Suffolk Police, Jubilee House, Falconers Chase, Wymondham, NR18 0WW
- Via third parties - if you would prefer, complaints can also be made via your local Citizens Advice Bureau, Racial Equality Council, Youth Offending Team or the Probation Service. Other agencies that can assist you include Leeway Advocacy Service or through your solicitor
- by telephoning 101.

- c. Since the PCC has been in office from 15/11/2012 there have been 74 cases where legal proceedings have been issued against the Suffolk Constabulary in respect of civil claims. The total settlements amounted to £619,537.

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*

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 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