



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 001438-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 20 April 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *“How many children and young people (aged up to 18) were recorded by the police as present in the family home when domestic abuse incidents took place in each of the following financial years?*
 - a. *2010/11*
 - b. *2015/16*
 - c. *2016/17*

2. *How many children aged five and under were recorded by the police as present in the family home when domestic abuse incidents took place in each of the following financial years?*
 - a. *2010/11*
 - b. *2015/16*
 - c. *2016/17*

3. *Of these children and young people in question one, how many were referred to children’s social care services/Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)?*

4. *Of the incidents of domestic abuse involving children (aged up to 18), how many led to the police informing the child’s school or college that an incident had taken place?”*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 8 May 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.

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.

Information relating to questions 1 and 2 is not available within the time constraints of the Act, prior to the implementation of our current crime system, Athena. Data held prior to 19 October 2015 is held within the Case Administration and Tracking System (CATS), which does not provide the ability to research data to this degree of accuracy. We would therefore be required to manually review thousands of records and at a reserved 2 minutes per case, would take well in excess of the 18 hours.

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.

Although excess cost removes the Force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your request, 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.

A search has been completed of the Constabulary's crime system, Athena for the time frame 19 October 2015 – 31 March 2017, for all occasions where a domestic abuse incident occurred and a child was present.

The table provided below confirms the total number of children present during a domestic incident. Please note that this relates to the number of children as opposed to investigations, as there will be occasions where there is more than one child present.

Age	19 October 2015 – 31 March 2016	2016/17
1	128	512
2	164	497
3	114	416
4	127	482
5	138	420



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6	104	423
7	123	418
8	82	363
9	113	337
10	103	317
11	81	270
12	72	233
13	69	250
14	62	240
15	51	166
16	67	228
17	53	256
18	34	149
Grand Total	1685	5977

Suffolk Constabulary shares all domestic abuse referrals concerning children with both the education and health authorities. We cannot confirm whether all of the schools will receive the referrals, as it will depend on whether they have signed up for the scheme and the Constabulary does not hold this information.

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*

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