



Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 001581-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies on 26 April 2019 which you sought access to the following information:

1. *“Please provide me with the number of offences recorded by your police force for motorists who had missing or obscured number plates, or number plates with illegal spacing/characters/font/coloured-screws etc. Please provide this data for 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015 and 2014, breaking the results down year-by-year.*
2. *Please also inform me if your constabulary has an official position on this issue. I have been told officers in some forces will not investigate reports of illegal number plates from members of the public due to a lack of resources and manpower. Please confirm what you force's position is for pulling over motorists with/responding to reports of/issuing penalties for illegal number plates.”*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 3 May 2019

Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies have considered your request for information and the response is below.

1. The total number of offences concerning illegal, missing or obscured number plates is as follows:

Norfolk					
Traffic Offence Reports	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Drive a vehicle when the registration mark fails to conform with regulations	152	195	146	147	151
Drive a vehicle and trailer with no registration plate	1	3	5	3	0
Drive a vehicle with registration mark obscured / indistinguishable	13	20	16	5	10
Drive vehicle / vehicle and trailer no rear registration plate	40	52	69	52	51
Drive vehicle no front registration plate	51	39	30	15	9
Keep a vehicle when registration mark fails to conform with the regulations	3	1	3	13	12
Keep vehicle and trailer no rear registration plate	1	2	3	1	2

Keep a vehicle with registration mark obscured	0	1	1	0	0
Keep vehicle no front registration plate	2	0	0	0	1
Total	263	313	273	236	236
Vehicle Defect Rectification Scheme Notices					
Drive a vehicle when the registration mark fails to conform with regulations	14	52	75	55	91
Drive a vehicle with registration mark obscured / indistinguishable	9	8	14	9	21
Drive vehicle / vehicle and trailer no rear registration plate	9	7	21	42	13
Drive vehicle no front registration plate	16	21	24	42	14
Keep a vehicle with registration mark obscured	0	1	0	0	5
Keep vehicle and trailer no rear registration plate	0	0	0	1	1
Keep vehicle no front registration plate	0	0	0	0	1
Keep a vehicle when registration mark fails to conform with the regulations	1	0	1	10	0
Total	49	89	135	159	146

Suffolk					
Traffic Offence Reports	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Drive a vehicle when the registration mark fails to conform with regulations	133	113	133	109	113
Drive a vehicle and trailer with no registration plate	2	1	0	4	0
Drive a vehicle with registration mark obscured / indistinguishable	10	9	4	9	14
Drive vehicle / vehicle and trailer no rear registration plate	16	15	26	33	12
Drive vehicle no front registration plate	30	28	31	15	10
Keep a vehicle when registration mark fails to conform with the regulations	2	1	7	10	13
Keep vehicle and trailer no rear registration plate	0	2	3	5	1
Keep a vehicle with registration mark obscured	1	0	0	1	3
Keep vehicle no front registration plate	0	0	0	1	0
Total	194	169	204	187	166
Vehicle Defect Rectification Scheme Notices					
Drive a vehicle when the registration mark fails to conform with regulations	10	7	19	18	6
Drive a vehicle with registration mark obscured / indistinguishable	3	3	1	7	6
Drive vehicle / vehicle and trailer no rear registration plate	2	2	4	7	3
Drive vehicle no front registration plate	11	4	3	6	5
Keep a vehicle with registration mark obscured					1
Keep a vehicle when registration mark fails to conform with the regulations				7	4
Total	26	16	27	45	25

2. There has been no guidance issued specifically in relation to number plate offences however, is an officer sees an obstruction or another offence, they can use their discretion to deal with the matter appropriately.

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/>

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 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 Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary will aim to respond to your request for us to look at our decision again within 40 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