



Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 001590-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies on the 2 May 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. a) The total number of recorded offences for indecent images (still or moving) of children, for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017
 b) The total number of recorded offences for indecent images (still or moving) of children, for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018
2. a) The breakdown of possession, distribution and any other linked indecent image (still or moving) of children offence for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017
 b) The breakdown of possession, distribution and any other linked indecent image (still or moving) of children offence for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018
 c) The breakdown of possession, distribution and any other linked indecent image (still or moving) of children offence for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018, with the breakdown of perpetrators age (by individual age where possible), gender and occupation.

If the request exceeds the Freedom of Information time limit, please focus on 2a and 2b

3. a) The breakdown of taking indecent images (still or moving) of children for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017
 b) The breakdown of taking indecent images (still or moving) of children for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018
 c) The breakdown of taking indecent images (still or moving) of children for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 with the breakdown of perpetrators age (by individual age where possible), gender and occupation.

If the request exceeds the Freedom of Information time limit, please focus on 3a and 3b"

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 16 May 2018

Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies have considered your request for information and our 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. The Constabularies do not hold, for the purposes of FOIA, all of 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, exceeding 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.

It is considered that to provide an answer to your request will take in excess of 36 hours to provide the information. The Constabularies crime data records these offences under the two offence codes:

- 086/02 'Take or to make or to distribute indecent photographs or pseudo- photographs, of children'
- 086/10 'Possession of an incident or pseudo incident photo of a child'

These codes do not differentiate between 'Possession, distribution and any other linked indecent image' or 'Taking indecent images'.

The offences are not recorded on the system in this way and the only way to establish this level of detail would be to manually review each offence to extract the data requested. Considering there are approximately 1800 offences that would need to be reviewed and at a reserved 4 minute per crime, it would take in excess of 120 hours to extract data to answer questions 2 and 3.

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 Constabularies as £450 and specifies that this sum equates to 18 hours work per force at a standard rate of £25 per hour. This equates to 36 hours of work, or £900, for joint responses.

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 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 Constabularies crime system for all offences recorded under the following offence codes:

- 086/02 'Take or to make or to distribute indecent photographs or pseudo- photographs, of children'
- 086/10 'Possession of an incident or pseudo incident photo of a child'

The total number of offences recorded is provided in the tables below.

Norfolk		
Offence Code	2016/17	2017/18
086/12	454	334
086/10	105	125

Suffolk		
Offence Code	2016/17	2017/18
086/12	307	344
086/10	38	45

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/>

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 20 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