



9<sup>th</sup> July 2018

## Freedom of Information Request Reference N<sup>o</sup>: FOI 001609/18

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information about the use of any algorithms or machine-learning systems by your police force. Specifically, I am asking the following:

- 1 Is your force using any algorithms and/or artificial intelligence software at any point in the process of investigating, detecting, or preventing crime?
- 2 If Yes, please provide details:
  - (i) Of the algorithms or artificial intelligence software you use;
  - (ii) Of whether you use a commercial product or whether you have developed your own system;
  - (iii) Of the purpose for which the algorithm and/or artificial intelligence software operates;
  - (iv) Of the decisions the algorithm and/or artificial intelligence software is asked to make or assist;
  - (v) Of the type, classification and amount of data that the algorithm and/or artificial intelligence software uses in the decision making process;
  - (vi) Of the weight given by an officer or member of the police force to any decision reached by algorithm and/or artificial intelligence software when making an investigative, operational or resource-allocating decision;
  - (vii) Of the process by which you inform an individual that they have been subject to a decision made or aided by an algorithm and/or artificial intelligence software?
  - (viii) Of the process by which a member of the public can challenge a decision that has been made or aided by an algorithm and/or artificial intelligence software;

## Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 5<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies have located the following information as relevant to your request.

Q1 Norfolk Constabulary is currently trialling an algorithm to assist with investigating crimes.

Suffolk Constabulary is not currently testing or using any algorithms.

Q2

- (i) A solvability algorithm, built on Norfolk burglary cases is currently being piloted to see whether it can assist in deciding whether burglary investigations should be allocated for further investigation, once the initial investigation has taken place. This is a trial and an evaluation will take place before the algorithm is routinely used.

All cases of burglary are run through the algorithm before the Investigation Management Unit (IMU) decides whether or not to assign each case for investigation.

Two controls have been put in place throughout the duration of the pilot:-

- A The algorithm is not run until at least a clear 24 hours have passed to allow officers to conduct initial investigations into the crime.
- B All decisions made by the algorithm are reviewed by a member of staff who can override any decision made.
- (ii) The algorithm being tested has been developed by an academic working with the University of Cambridge and has been built for use specifically with Norfolk Constabulary and based on data from the Constabulary.
- (iii) Based on an analysis of thousands of burglary cases in Norfolk, factors have been analysed to show differences in their prevalence in solved / unsolved cases - identifying solvability factors and case limiting factors. This forms the basis of the algorithm.
- (iv) The decision made by the algorithm comes after the initial investigation of the offence. It assists with the decision as to whether or not the offence should be allocated for further investigation.
- (v) The decision making process is based on 29 factors, against which each burglary incident is assessed for their presence or absence. This generates a recommendation on whether the case should be allocated for further investigation.
- (vi) Cases are overseen by members of the Norfolk Investigation Management Unit. The decisions made by the algorithm can be overridden at any time during the pilot period.
- (vii) The individual is not currently given information as to whether the allocation decision has been aided by an algorithm. The algorithm alone does not make the decision, as each case is reviewed by a staff member.
- (viii) The process for any challenges by members of the public would be the same regardless of the use of the algorithm during the decision making.

This response will be published on the Constabularies web-site under the Freedom of Information pages:-

<https://www.norfolk.police.uk/about-us/our-data/disclosure-log>  
<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/services/freedom-information/disclosure-logs>

Should you have any further queries concerning this request, please contact Amanda Gibson, 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  
Norfolk Constabulary  
Operations and Communications Centre  
Jubilee House  
Falconers Chase  
Wymondham  
Norfolk NR18 0WW  
OR  
Email: [freedomofinformation@norfolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@norfolk.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](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