



3rd June 2019

Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 001685/19

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies on the 3rd May 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

Could I please request the number of hate crimes recorded by the police force for the period between 23 June 2016 and 2 May 2019.

- 1 Please breakdown the information by calendar month
- 2 For the above information how many arrests and convictions were made?

I understand you do not have conviction data so could you please substitute this with people proceeded against (PPA) information.

I'd also like to know how many more specialist hate crime investigators the force has employed in the same time frame.

Response to your Request

When responding to a request for information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, a public authority is not obliged to provide information if the authority estimates that the cost of the retrieval of the information requested would be in excess of £450 (equivalent to 18 hours work).

The costs criteria relates to a request in its entirety, which means that if we cannot retrieve all of the information requested within the costs limit, we are not obliged to retrieve *any* of the information requested.

The Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies estimates that to retrieve all the information you have requested for both forces would exceed cost in excess of £450 (per force).

The Constabularies custody database does not have an indicator to easily identify any crimes which are hate related. It would only be identifiable by reading through the details of each arrest freetext. Please see below number of custody records for the period requested:-

Total Arrests		
Year	Norfolk	Suffolk
2016	8126	4917
2017	14490	9397
2018	14343	9838
2019	5000	3291
Total	41959	27443

To review every record, based on 5 minutes each, this would significantly exceed the appropriate limit for dealing with a Freedom of Information request, in terms of costs, and therefore Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act applies.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 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 2004, defines the ‘appropriate limit’ for the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies as £450 for each Constabulary, and specifies that this sum equates to 18 hours work at a standard rate of £25 per hour.

In accordance with Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000), this serves as a Refusal Notice for your request.

Advice & Assistance

Although excess cost removes the Constabularies obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, we have supplied information, relative to your request, which was 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.

Please see below number of recorded hate crimes. The figures are correct as at 22nd May.

Statistical information regarding court outcomes is not held by the Constabulary. Please see attached spreadsheets for crime outcomes. Please note, the figures will change as further crimes are finalised.

NORFOLK

Q1

Hate Crimes - 23rd June 2016 - 2nd May 2019				
Month	2016	2017	2018	2019
January	-	143	127	128
February	-	152	187	186
March	-	222	223	232
April	-	195	194	141
May	-	203	217	6
June	45	249	136	-
July	214	241	146	-
August	183	170	153	-
September	176	143	119	-
October	156	170	175	-
November	161	153	122	-
December	151	167	163	-
Grand Total	1086	2208	1962	693

SUFFOLK

Q1

Hate Crimes - 23rd June 2016 - 2nd May 2019				
Month	2016	2017	2018	2019
January	-	113	118	135

February	-	119	147	133
March	-	93	166	138
April	-	141	151	173
May	-	154	227	5
June	147	200	160	-
July	155	229	136	-
August	115	220	178	-
September	101	200	171	-
October	108	183	180	-
November	149	155	120	-
December	140	109	122	-
Grand Total	915	1916	1876	584

The Constabularies do not have any dedicated specialist hate crime investigators.

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 40 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*

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