



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 001747-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 9 May 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

“The number of Foreign National Offender Conditional Cautions that have been given by the police force in the financial years of 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19. Please indicate the major and minor crime categories for which the cautions were issued, if available.”

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 21 May 2019

Suffolk Constabulary has considered your request for information and the response is below.

A search has been completed of the Constabulary's crime system for all offences recorded that has an outcome of 'caution'. This information was then filtered to include only those offences where the offender's nationality was foreign. The nationality of an offender is not a mandatory field and therefore, there may be additional relevant offences not included within this search owing to their nationality not being recorded in the correct field.

This returned a total of 1,459 offences, excluding those where the offender's nationality is not mentioned. Each would need to be manually reviewed in order to establish whether the caution had any conditions attached to it.

Considering a search of 3 minutes per offence to review the crime report and associated files, the Constabulary anticipates it would take in excess of 70 hours to extract data for those where a nationality is present. Additional research would be required to establish any other relevant offences where the nationality has not been mentioned.

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.

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.

The table provided below confirms the total number of offences that have resulted in a caution and the offender has a foreign nationality.

Offence Group	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19
Arson & Criminal Damage	7	26	16	25	20
Burglary		1	2	6	5
Drug Offences	39	33	46	42	42
Exclude From Stats	33	25			
Fraud And Forgery		14	3		1
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	1	3	7	3	11
NFIB Fraud		2			
Other Offences	27	13			
Possession Of Weapons		1	5	9	1
Public Order Offences		8	37	18	29
Robbery	2	1	1	3	
Sexual Offences	1	8	7	2	1
Theft	110	84	64	68	75
Vehicle Offences			1	14	3
Violence Against The Person	62	100	114	86	91
Grand Total	282	319	303	276	279



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/>

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 40 working 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