**Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 001762-19**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies on 10 May 2019 which you sought access to the following information:

*"I am writing to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act, broken down by financial year since 2015/16*

- *The number of instances of corruption by a member of police staff reported to your force*
- *The number of arrests of police staff for corruption offences*
- *The number of charges brought against police staff for corruption offences."*

**Response to your Request**

The response provided below is correct as of 14 May 2019

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

The Constabularies are unable to confirm an accurate figure for reports concerning corruption by a member of police staff. Such reports will come into the Constabulary via a number of reporting methods and seldom are they reported as a criminal activity. The most likely, but by no means only route, would be via intelligence, which is then developed and upon investigation, an assessment is made to establish whether a criminal offence has been committed. There is no specific means to extract the data from the intelligence database and we would need to review all submissions made in the time frame requested to extract those relevant to the request.

Considering the many thousands of submissions this would relate to, it would take well in excess of 36 hours to extract the data form intelligence alone.

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.

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.

The number of police staff who has been arrested for corruption offences, is provided in the table below, none of which resulted in a member of staff being charged or required to attend court for an offences of Misconduct in a Public Office.

| Year | Norfolk | Suffolk |
|---|---|---|
| 2015 – 16 | 1 | 1 |
| 2016 – 17 | 0 | 1 |
| 2017 – 18 | 0 | 0 |
| 2018 - 19 | 0 | 0 |

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.

<u>Your Right to Request a Review of Decisions Made Under the Terms of the
Freedom of Information Act (2000).</u>

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.

<u>Ask Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies to look at the decision again.</u>

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.

<u>The Information Commissioner.</u>

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