



## Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 001961-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies on 28 May which you sought access to the following information:

*"I'm eager to investigate the incidents of fuel theft in the UK and as such I would like to make a Freedom of Information request for fuel theft data for 2016, 2017 and 2018 if you can make it available to me. I would be looking for reported instances of fuel theft for the period of 1 January – 31 December for each respective year.*

- *Post code*
- *Number of reported instances of fuel theft (at each post code) (for January 1 – December 31 2018 and the same dates in 2017 and 2016)*
- *Reported amount stolen*
- *Fuel type stolen (petrol, diesel, red diesel, kerosene, any others)*
- *Stolen from home*
- *Stolen from private vehicle?*
- *Stolen from fleet vehicle?*
- *Stolen from business?*
- *Business type (industrial, commercial, agricultural, construction, hospital, educational, hospitality, marine, any other)*
- *Solved or unsolved"*

## Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 11 June 2019

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

The Constabularies are only able to confirm the location of an offence based on the information recorded within the 'Location' field of the crime system. This will not necessarily confirm the type of business and there are also 793 and 572 offences recorded in Norfolk and Suffolk respectfully, that have no location type recorded in this field at all.

Consequently, for those blank fields, we would have to manually review each offence to establish the specific location of the crime. At a search of 2 minutes per offence, it would take in excess of 44 hours to extract this data 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.

It is considered that to provide an answer to your request will take in excess of 36 hours to provide the information.

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 total number of offences recorded of fuel theft is provided below including the location type, where recorded.

<b>Norfolk</b>			
<b>Premises Type</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Airfield / Airstrip / Airport		1	
Allotment			1
Ambulance / Fire station / Police Station	1		
Arena / Stadium	1		1
Beach		1	

Building Site / Development	6	5	5
Cafe / Restaurant		1	2
Camping / Caravan / Holiday Site	1	1	
Car Park	1	2	
Care / Nursing Home	1		1
Commercial premises	5		1
Compound / Yard / Depot	4	4	3
Driveway	1	3	
Farm / Agricultural Building	4	3	4
Farm Land	4	3	3
Flat/Apartment	2		
Forest / Wood	1		
Garage - Commercial	56	73	62
Harbour / Marina / Port / Dock			1
Hostel		1	
Hotel / B&B / Guest house		3	2
House - Bungalow	15	11	7
House- Detached	6	6	8
House- End Terrace	1		
House- Mid Terrace		1	
House- Semi Detached	1	1	
Leisure Centre			1
Library		1	
Nature reserve / Wildlife Sanctuary		1	
Not Recorded	220	265	308
Office	1		
Outside	1	12	7
Parks / Gardens	4	2	
Petrol / Filling Station	212	313	348
Playground		1	
Public House / Bar / Night Club		2	4
Pumping Station	1		
Quarry / Mine	2		3
River / Canal / Waterway	1		
School	1		2
Shed / Outbuilding			1
Shop / Store / Supermarket	21	29	31
Social Club			1
Street / Road	4	8	6

Warehouse / Distribution Centre	1		
Water / Sewage Treatment Works	1		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>813</b>

<b>Suffolk</b>			
<b>Premises Type</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Allotment	1		
Beach	1		
Building Site / Development	2	5	4
Bus Station		1	
Cafe / Restaurant	2	6	
Camping / Caravan / Holiday Site	1		
Car Park	2	5	3
Commercial premises	1		
Compound / Yard / Depot	1		2
Driveway	3	2	
Farm / Agricultural Building	5	2	1
Farm Land	3	2	3
Flat/Apartment	1		
Forest / Wood		1	
Garage - Commercial	31	25	18
Hotel / B&B / Guest house	1	2	
House - Bungalow		1	3
House- Detached	2	4	
House- Mid Terrace	1		
House- Semi Detached		1	2
Nature reserve / Wildlife Sanctuary	1		
Not Recorded	131	223	218
Outside	2	3	1
Petrol / Filling Station	253	309	417
Public House / Bar / Night Club	3	4	2
Pumping Station	10	12	1
Shop / Store / Supermarket	17	17	11
Sports Club	1		
Street / Road	12	18	7
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>693</b>

The fuel type stolen is provided in the tables below:

<b>Norfolk</b>			
<b>Fuel Type</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Diesel	124	168	155
Gas	6	1	4
Kerosene	1	2	
Not Recorded	249	328	397
Oil	114	162	135
Petrol	74	76	102
Red Diesel	13	17	20
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>813</b>

<b>Suffolk</b>			
<b>Fuel Type</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Diesel	114	133	137
Gas	2	4	4
Kerosene	1	2	1
Not Recorded	224	305	333
Oil	66	90	88
Petrol	66	98	119
Red Diesel	15	11	11
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>693</b>

The outcomes for those offences is provided in the tables below:

<b>Norfolk</b>			
<b>Outcome</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Not Recorded	5	29	35
Type 1 - Charged/Summoned/Postal Requisition	75	58	50
Type 1A - Charged/Summons - alternate offence			1
Type 3 - Caution Adult	7	3	10
Type 4 - TIC - Taken into Consideration	12	1	4
Type 8 - Community resolution (Crime)	22	19	5
Type 10 - Formal Action Against Offender is not in the Public Interest (Police)	11	21	14
Type 12 - Prosecution Prevented-Named Suspect Identified But Is Too Ill (Physical Or Mental Health) To Prosecute		2	
Type 14 - Evidential Difficulties Victim Based- Suspect Not Identified	17	22	89
Type 15 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties	32	49	80
Type 16 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties	55	94	94
Type 17 - Prosecution Time Limit Expired: Suspect Identified But Prosecution Time Limit Has Expired		2	1

Type 18 - Investigation Complete; No Suspect Identified.	341	451	424
Type 20 - Further action resulting from the crime report will be undertaken by another body or agency	1	2	4
Type 21 - Not in the public interest - police decision.	3	1	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>813</b>

<b>Suffolk</b>			
<b>Outcome</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Not Recorded	4	6	11
Type 1 - Charged/Summoned/Postal Requisition	23	18	13
Type 2 - Caution Youth		1	
Type 3 - Caution Adult	2	4	1
Type 4 - TIC - Taken into Consideration	6	9	26
Type 8 - Community resolution (Crime)	9	8	2
Type 10 - Formal Action Against Offender is not in the Public Interest (Police)	3	6	3
Type 12 - Prosecution Prevented-Named Suspect Identified But Is Too Ill (Physical Or Mental Health) To Prosecute			1
Type 14 - Evidential Difficulties Victim Based- Suspect Not Identified	8	6	8
Type 15 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties	38	50	65
Type 16 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties	20	21	18
Type 17 - Prosecution Time Limit Expired: Suspect Identified But Prosecution Time Limit Has Expired		1	
Type 18 - Investigation Complete; No Suspect Identified.	345	506	543
Type 1A - Charged/Summons - alternate offence.			1
Type 20 - Further action resulting from the crime report will be undertaken by another body or agency	15	2	
Type 21 - Not in the public interest - police decision.	15	5	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>693</b>

***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](mailto: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.

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