



24th June 2019

Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 001966/19

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies on the 28th May 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

- 1 how many computers (desktops, laptops, tablets) are in the Force estate for use by officers and staff?
- 2 which is the prevalent computer operating system across the constabulary (for example Microsoft Windows XP, WIndows7, Windows 10, iOS (Apple), Chrome or other);
- 3 which version of that system is the default;
- 4 regardless which system is the current default, whether there is an intention to move to Windows 10 and if so when and at what estimated cost.
- 5 If the force has commenced this move to Windows 10, what approximate proportion of devices are using Windows 10.

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 5th June 2019.

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

Q1

Desktop	2583
Laptop	1076
Tablet	1176

Q2-5 With regard to the remainder of your request, Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary will **neither confirm nor deny** whether any other information is held.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Constabularies; when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) is to provide you the applicant with a notice ban which:

- (a) States that fact
- (b) Specifies the exemption(s) in question and
- (c) States (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption(s) applies.

Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies can **neither confirm nor deny** whether information is held relevant to your request, as the duty in section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act does not apply by virtue of the following exemptions:-

- Section 24(2) National Security
- Section 31(3) Law Enforcement

Sections 24 and 31 are prejudice based qualified exemptions and there is a requirement to articulate the harm that would be caused by confirming or denying whether information is or isn't held. A public interest test is also required.

Evidence of Harm

Policing is an information-led activity and information assurance (which includes information security) is fundamental to how the Police Service manages the challenges faced. In order to comply with statutory requirements, the College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice (APP) for Information Assurance has been put in place to ensure the delivery of core operational policing by providing appropriate and consistent protection for the information assets of member organisations. See link below:-

<https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/information-management/>

To confirm or deny whether the Constabularies have these Windows systems would provide actual knowledge of the systems in use and could identify vulnerable computer systems. This information would be of significant interest to those involved in criminal and terrorist activity as it could indicate any forces and systems that may be more vulnerable to a cyber-attack. This could result in the loss of Police information, intelligence and tactics.

If the Police Service are subject to a cyber-attack, this would affect the Country on a national scale and could therefore affect National Security, as well as undermining law enforcement.

The loss of data from national databases would impact on the Constabularies partnership working. It is vitally important that information sharing takes place with security bodies within the UK to support counter-terrorism measures in the fight to deprive terrorist networks of their ability to commit crime.

An attack on Police systems could place the safety of officers and members of the public at risk.

Public Interest Test

Section 24 – factors favouring confirmation or denial of whether information is or isn't held

The public are entitled to know how public funds are spent. To confirm whether information is held would enable the general public to determine whether Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies are managing resources appropriate when it comes to ICT systems. In the current financial climate of cuts, and with the call for transparency of public spending, this would enable improved public debate.

Section 24 – factors against confirmation or denial of whether information is or isn't held

Security measures are put in place to protect the communities that we serve. As evidenced within the harm, to confirm what systems are in use, would highlight to terrorists and individuals intent on carrying out criminal activity, any potential vulnerabilities within Norfolk and Suffolk.

Taking into account the current security climate within the UK, no information (such as the citing of an exemption which confirms information pertinent to this request is held, or conversely, stating 'no information is held'), which may aid a terrorist, should be disclosed. To what extent this

information may aid a terrorist is unknown, but it is clear that it would have an impact on a forces' ability to monitor terrorist activity.

Irrespective of what information is or isn't held, the public entrust the Police Service to make appropriate decisions with regard to their safety and protection and, the only way of reducing risk is to be cautious with what is placed into the public domain.

The cumulative effect of terrorists gathering information from various sources would be even more impactful when linked to other information from various sources about terrorism. The more information disclosed over time will give a more detailed account of the tactical infrastructure of not only a force area but also the County as a whole.

Any incident that results from such a disclosure would, by default, affect National Security.

Section 31 – factors favouring confirmation or denial of whether information is or isn't held

Confirmation or denial of whether information exists, relevant to this request, would lead to a better informed public. Providing details of whether or not the Constabularies use these systems would allow the public to determine whether Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies are using up to date systems in order to protect information and intelligence, including personal data.

Section 31 – factors against confirmation or denial of whether information is or isn't held

Confirmation or denial whether information is held in this case would suggest that Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies take their responsibility to protect information and information systems from unauthorised access, destruction, etc, dismissively and inappropriately.

Balance Test

The points above highlight the merits of confirming or denying whether the requested information exists. The Police Service is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. As part of that policing purpose, information is gathered which can be highly sensitive relating to high profile investigative activity. Weakening the mechanisms used to monitor any type of criminal activity, and specifically terrorist activity, would place the security of the country at an increased level of danger.

In order to comply with statutory requirements and to meet National Police Chiefs' Council of the Police Service, with regard to the management of information security, a national policy approved by the College of Policing, titled National Policing Community Security Policy, has been put in place. This policy has been construed to ensure the delivery of core operational policing by providing appropriate and consistent protection for the information assets of member organisations. A copy of this can be found at the below link:-

<http://library.college.police.uk/docs/APP-Community-Security-Policy-2014.pdf>

In addition, anything that places that confidence at risk, no matter how generic, would undermine any trust or confidence individuals have in the Police Service. Therefore, at this moment in time, it is our opinion that for these issues, the balance test lies in favour of neither confirming nor denying whether any relevant information is held.

No inference can be drawn from this refusal as to whether information is or isn't held.

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