



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 002029-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 8 June 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

“How many attacks on police officers have there been?”

If possible, could I get details of the attack (if that isn't available, don't worry)

Please could I get a breakdown for the figures, separately, for the years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 (so far)?”

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 8 June 2018

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

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.

Information concerning attacks/assaults on police officers without injury is recorded under the offences of 'Assault on Police'. For those occasions where an injury was sustained, the information would be recorded under another offence category such as GBH, ABH etc. The occupation of the victim is a non-mandatory field and we would there be required to review off violent offences to establish whether any relate to a police officer being a victim of the crime.

Considering the many hundreds of offences we would be required to review, and an estimated search of 4 minutes per crime to allow cross references with the HR databases, it is estimated it will take the Constabulary in excess of 40 hours to provide this 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 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.

A search has been completed of the Constabulary's crime system for all offences of assault on a police constable recorded for the 2015 – 2017 calendar years.

Offence Description	2015	2016	2017
Assault without Injury – Assault on Police	192		
Assault without Injury on a Constable - Assaults a designated person or his assistant in the exercise of a relevant power		1	2
Assault without Injury on a Constable - Vagrant violently resisting a constable			1
Assault without injury on a constable (NOT covered by the Police Act 1996)		2	1
Assault without injury on a constable (Police Act offence)	21	189	273
Attempted - Assault without injury on a constable (Police Act offence)		1	4
Grand Total	213	193	281

The table provided below confirms the total number of assaults with injury whilst on duty reported to the Health and Safety department. This will therefore not include any occasions an injury was sustained and no referral was made. The data provided below must not be used in conjunction with the information above, as there may be duplications.

Year	Details / Numbers of injuries sustained
2015	<p>January – 3 Assaults - Punched – bitten-grabbed</p> <p>February – 1 Assault- stuck with a cup of hot coffee</p> <p>March – No Assaults</p> <p>April – 3 Assaults - Punched – item thrown at – kicked</p> <p>May – 10 Assaults - Punched – scratched – hit by moving vehicle – Kicked</p> <p>June – 8 Assaults - Punched – bitten – spat at – brick thrown</p> <p>July – 7 Assaults - Punched – kicked</p>



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	<p>August – 8 Assaults – Knead – hit- jumped on – head-butt September – 8 Assaults - Punched – scratched October – 4 Assaults – Kicked - pushed November – 4 Assaults – Kicked - punched December – 4 Assaults – Kicked – punched-bitten</p>
2016	<p>January – 5 Assaults - Punched – scratched - kicked February – 7 Assault- Scratched – head butt – punched - stabbed March – 8 Assault – punched 0 item thrown at – elbowed - bitten April – 4 Assaults – punched - pushed May – 6 Assaults – bitten – punched- scratched June – 4 Assaults – spat at - punched July – 6 Assaults – kicked– punched- scratched -pushed August – 2 Assaults – kicked– scratched September – 8 Assaults – kicked– punched- scratched –pushed October – 8 Assaults –kicked- scratched -bitten November – 3 Assaults – kicked– punched December – 3 Assaults – kicked– punched</p>
2017	<p>January – 9 Assaults - Punched – bitten-pushed - elbowed February – No Assault March – 1 Assault – spat at April – 13 Assaults - punched – pushed – kicked- head-butt May – 17 Assaults - punched – pushed – kicked – spat at - scratched June – 11 Assaults Punched –kicked -spat at July – 8 Assaults - Punched –kicked -spat at August – 11 Assaults – pushed – kicked - scratched September – 9 Assaults - punched –kicked – bitten - pushed October – 26 Assaults - punched –kicked –scratched-bitten – head butt – elbowed - strike November – 3 Assaults - spat at - scratched December – 16 Assaults - punched– hit with object– spat at - scratched</p>

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 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 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