



## **Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 002084-19**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 4 June 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

*“A count of offences where police officers were assaulted or were victims of violence against the person for the following calendar years: 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018.”*

### **Response to your Request**

The response provided below is correct as of 5 June 2019

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

When responding to a request for information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, a public authority is not obliged to provide information if the authority estimates that the cost of the retrieval of the information requested would be in excess of £450 (equivalent to 18 hours work).

The costs criteria relates to a request in its entirety, which means that if we cannot retrieve all of the information requested within the costs limit, we are not obliged to retrieve *any* of the information requested.

Suffolk Constabulary estimates that to retrieve all the information you have requested would exceed cost in excess of £450.

Since April 2017, there have been offence codes relating to assaults on Police Officers which have resulted in either an injury or no injury. Prior to this there was only an offence category for assaults on officers with no injury. However, if an injury had occurred, this would have been recorded under the specific violent offence category, for example ABH, GBH, etc. Whilst there is a field on crime reports for the victim occupation, this is not a mandatory field and many are not completed.

To identify whether any of these reports relate to an assault on a Police Officer, it would be necessary to case read the details of each one. It would also be necessary to review these to see if the crime details whether the offence took place whilst the officer was on-duty.

This would significantly exceed the appropriate limit for dealing with a Freedom of Information request, in terms of costs, and therefore Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act applies.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 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 2004, 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 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000), this serves as a Refusal Notice for your request.

#### Advice & Assistance

Although excess cost removes the Constabularies obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, we have supplied information, relative to your request, which was 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.

Please see figures below for 2018:-

<b>Offence Type</b>	<b>Suffolk</b>
<b>VIOLENCE WITH INJURY</b>	<b>93</b>
Assault Police - Assault with Injury - Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	77
Assault Police - Assault with Injury - Malicious wounding: wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm (Minor wound or equivalent)	10
Assault Police - Assault with Injury - Malicious wounding: wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm (Serious wound or equivalent)	-
Assault Police - Assault with Intent to cause Serious Harm - Wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm	1
Assault Police – Cause GBH with intent to resist/prevent arrest.	1
Assault Police - Wounding with intent to resist/prevent arrest	3
Attempted - Assault Police - Assault with Intent to cause Serious Harm - Wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm	1
Attempted - Assault Police - Cause GBH with intent to resist/prevent arrest.	-
<b>VIOLENCE WITHOUT INJURY</b>	<b>337</b>
Assault or assault by beating of a constable	25



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Assault without Injury on a Constable - Assaults a designated person or his assistant in the exercise of a relevant power	1
Assault without Injury on a Constable - Assaults a member of a joint investigation team carrying out his functions as a member of that team	1
Assault without Injury on a Constable - Vagrant violently resisting a constable	1
Assault without injury on a constable (Police Act offence)	306
Attempted - Assault without injury on a constable (Police Act offence)	3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>430</b>

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.



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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](mailto: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](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