



# SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

**REQUEST NUMBER:** FOI Request 002165-17

**REQUEST DETAILS:**

*"This clearly limits my ability to access the entire record base (as referenced in the previous FOI 003905-16) therefore I will have to extrapolate 3 sample months to analyse. I have chosen the following..."*

*2013 – April – 63 records*

*2014 – Dec – 67 records*

*2015 – Sept – 51 records*

*= 181 records (from FOI 003905-16)*

*I am requesting that you access the 181 records and provide the following information:*

- 1. Whether an actual strip search took place?*
- 2. From these searches how many resulted in retrieval of illegal substances / illegal items within the body of the person searched?"*

**RESPONSE:**

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

*This response is correct as of 15 February 2017.*

A search was completed of the 181 strip searches authorised and carried out on persons during the months and years specified. The table includes the number of authorisations, the number carried out and the number of occasions an item was found on them.

Year	Month	Strip Search		
		Authorised	Carried out	Positive*
2013	April	63	63	3
2014	December	67	67	5
2015	September	51	48	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>181</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>14</b>

*\*Note: These are not "Intimate" searches as they would have to be undertaken at a hospital. The positive cases refer to items found on them rather than concealed inside their bodies.*



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***A strip search is a search involving the removal of more than one outer clothing. In PACE Code C, Annex A, para 9, outer clothing includes shoes and socks. PACE Code C, Annex A, para 10 states: A strip search may take place only if it is considered necessary to remove an article which a detainee would not be allowed to keep and the officer reasonably considers the detainee might have concealed such an article. Strip searches shall not be routinely carried out if there is no reason to consider that articles are concealed.***

***An Appropriate Adult would be called for any young person, or mentally disordered or otherwise mentally vulnerable person.***

***Note, a police officer carrying out a strip search must be the same sex as the detainee.***