

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 002177-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 21 June 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"The total number of children aged 16 and under arrested in connection with any sexual offence for the calendar years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 to date.*
2. *A breakdown of the ages of alleged offenders and the offences for which they were arrested, e.g. three nine year olds arrested in connection with sexual assault, two ten year olds arrested in connection with rape, etc.*
3. *The total number of children who were subsequently charged, broken down by calendar year.*
4. *A breakdown of the ages of alleged offenders and the offences for which they were arrested, e.g. three nine year olds charged with sexual assault, two ten year olds charged with rape, etc.*
5. *The age of the youngest person arrested in connection with a sexual offence over the period 2015 to 2018 as a whole and the offence for which they were arrested.*
6. *The age of the youngest person charged with a sexual offence over the period 2015 to 2018 as a whole and the offence for which they were charged.*
7. *The number of sexual offences recorded for each calendar year in which the location was given as a school and the perpetrator was alleged to be aged 16 or under."*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 27 June 2018

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

A search has been completed of the Constabulary's crime system for all sexual offences recorded for the 2015-2018 calendar years (up to 31 May 2018).

The information was then filtered to include only those offences where the person arrested was aged 16 and under. Please note that this relies on the correct date of birth being recorded and in

the correct field. Therefore, any occasions where a date of birth has not appeared in the crime it has not been provided in this data.

Please note that children under the age of 10 years old are not considered to have reached an age where they can be held responsible for their crimes. Because they are under the age of 'criminal responsibility', they cannot be arrested or charged with any criminal offence.

Children aged 10-14 can be convicted of a criminal offence if it can be proved that they were aware that what they were doing was seriously wrong.

1. A total of 53 children aged 16 and under have been arrested in connection with any sexual offence:

Year	Total
2015	7
2016	24
2017	19
2018	3
Grand Total	53

2. The ages of those persons arrested is provided in the table below, by offence.

Age	Offence Description	Total
12	Rape	3
	Sexual Activity	1
	Sexual Assault	1
13	Rape	4
	Sexual Assault	1
	Sexual Offences	1
14	Indecent Exposure	1
	Rape	6
	Sexual Assault	2
	Sexual Offences	1
15	Rape	8
	Sexual Assault	1
16	Rape	14



	Sexual Activity	1
	Sexual Assault	3
	Sexual Offences	5
Grand Total		53

3. A total of 9 persons have subsequently been charged with an offence as per the table below. Please note that a number of offences are still under investigation.

Year	Total
2015	3
2016	6
2017	0
2018	0
Grand Total	9

4. The age of those charged is provided in the table below, by offence.

Age	Offence Description	Total
12	Rape	1
	Sexual Assault	1
13	Rape	3
14	Rape	1
	Sexual Assault	1
16	Rape	1
	Sexual Assault	1
Grand Total		9

5. The age of the youngest person arrested is provided in the table for question 2.
6. The age of the youngest person charged is provided in the table for question 4.
7. One sexual offence was located, during the 2015 calendar year, in which the location was given as a school.

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.

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