



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 002203-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies on 14 June 2019 which you sought access to the following information:

1. *“The number of arrests related to cocaine for 2017/18 (April 17 - March 18) and 2018/19 (April 18 - March 19)*
2. *The number of arrests over the same time period broken down by offence e.g. supply a controlled drug of Class A, possession of a Class A drug etc*
3. *The number of arrests over the same time period broken down by neighbourhood area”*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 27 June 2019

Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies have considered your request for information and the response is below.

The Constabularies are unable to provide arrest data that specifically relates to cocaine, because the underlying drug for the arrest is not recorded, rather the drug is recorded as Class A, B etc. To establish which drug arrests purely relate to cocaine would involve a manual search through all Class A drug arrests for the time frame specified.

Considering there were a total of 1,233 arrests during the 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years for possession of a class A drug and at 3 minutes per search this would take in the region of 60 hours to retrieve.

Additionally, the location of the arrest is a non-mandatory freetext field and is not completed consistently by inputting officers. Therefore, we are unable to supply reliable location information without manually reviewing each custody record to establish whether the arrest was made. We can however, provide the Police Investigation Centre (PIC) in which the arrest was recorded.

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. The Constabularies do not hold, for the purposes of FOIA, all of 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, exceeding 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.

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 Constabularies as £450 and specifies that this sum equates to 18 hours work per force at a standard rate of £25 per hour. This equates to 36 hours of work, or £900, for joint responses.

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 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.

The tables provided below confirm the total number of arrests for ‘Possess Class A’ and ‘Possession With Intent to supply – Class A’ by force, PIC location and financial year.

Arresting Offence / PIC Location	Norfolk		Suffolk		Total
	2017/18	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19	
Drugs - Possess Class A	157	231	99	80	567
Wymondham PIC	61	79			140
King's Lynn PIC	53	71			124
Great Yarmouth PIC	27	57	9	11	104
Bury St. Edmunds PIC	4	10	44	39	97
Martlesham PIC			46	30	76
Aylsham PIC	12	14			26
Drugs - Possession With Intent to supply - Class A	173	177	175	141	666
Wymondham PIC	91	77	1	2	171
Martlesham PIC			100	70	170
Bury St. Edmunds PIC	8	2	60	53	123
Great Yarmouth PIC	38	45	13	16	112

King's Lynn PIC	29	39			68
Aylsham PIC	7	14	1		22
Grand Total	330	408	274	221	1233

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/>

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 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 Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary will aim to respond to your request for us to look at our decision again within 40 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