



3<sup>rd</sup> August 2020

### **Freedom of Information Request Reference N<sup>o</sup>: FOI 002237/20**

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 in which you sought access to the following information:

We are looking at the Victim's Right to Review in stalking or harassment cases.

Firstly, we would like to establish how many VRRs (under the enhanced Code) police forces individually have received for stalking/harassment cases - for the years listed individually below?

Secondly, of those police VRRs received we would like to know how many VRRs have been upheld by police and how many have been declined?

How many that were upheld then succeeded to a prosecution by CPS?

This would be for the:

- Year 2013 – the year the VRR came into place on 5th June
- Year 2014
- Year 2015
- Year 2016
- Year 2017
- Year 2018
- Year 2019
- Year 2020

### **Response to your Request**

The response provided below is correct as of 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies have considered your request and our response is below.

The Constabularies would have to undertake a manual review of all stalking and harassment cases, for the years requested, in order to identify any information relevant to your request. There is no central collation of VRR statistics across the two Constabularies.

We have previously released figures relating to the number of recorded offences of stalking and harassment and these are published via the links below:

[https://www.norfolk.police.uk/sites/norfolk/files/455\\_crimes\\_of\\_stalking\\_2009 - 2019.pdf](https://www.norfolk.police.uk/sites/norfolk/files/455_crimes_of_stalking_2009_-_2019.pdf)

[https://www.suffolk.police.uk/sites/suffolk/files/000462-20 - stalking\\_offences.pdf](https://www.suffolk.police.uk/sites/suffolk/files/000462-20_-_stalking_offences.pdf)

Based on these figures, to review each case would clearly significantly exceed 36 hours.

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.

The Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies estimates that to retrieve all the information you have requested for both forces would exceed cost in excess of £450 (per force).

This would therefore 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 Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies as £450 for each Constabulary, 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.

Should you have any further queries concerning this request, please contact Amanda Gibson, 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 40 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  
Norfolk Constabulary  
Operations and Communications Centre  
Jubilee House  
Falconers Chase  
Wymondham  
Norfolk NR18 0WW  
OR  
Email: [freedomofinformation@norfolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@norfolk.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 20 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](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