



Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 002321-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 3 July 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

"This request is for data pertaining to sex offences recorded between 2015-2017 where the offender was aged 60 or older at the time of the offence.

- 1. In total (for all ages), how many sexual offences were recorded in your force between 1st January 2015 and 31st December 2017?*
- 2. How many of these (number not percentage please) involved an offender who was aged 60 or over?*
- 3. How many of these (number not percentage please) involved an offender who was aged 60 or over at the time the sexual offence took place?*
- 4. For each of the incidents that you refer to in question 3 above (where the offender was aged 60 or over at the time of the offence) please fill out the attached form (individual data request). Please anonymise this data and use either a number or a reference for each case. Please complete one form per incident except where there is more than one perpetrator – in these cases please use the same reference number and complete multiple forms."*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 18 July 2018

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

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. Suffolk Constabulary does not hold, for the purposes of FOIA, 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, which would exceed 18 hours. This would exceed 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.



There are a total of 276 sexual offences recorded where the suspect was aged 60 years or over at the time the offence occurred, during the 2015 – 2017 calendar years. This does not account for any occasions where the offender's date of birth has not been entered into the crime. In order to establish whether any of these individuals has previously committed a sexual offence, the Constabulary would be required to manually review each offence in turn to extract relevant particulars of the offender, to cross reference with the current and legacy crime systems, in order to establish those with a known previous offending history. This of course will only account for those persons who have previously had convictions in the Suffolk force area.

Additionally, to establish the relationship between offender and victim and the specific location at which the offence occurred, would require a manual review of the freetext of each crime, to establish whether this level of information has been recorded.

In many cases, the gender and ethnicity of the offender is not completed, we would therefore need to complete a similar search as above to extract this additional information.

Considering a search of 5 minutes per person, given the details requested, it would take in excess of 23 hours. Please note that the Constabulary have already spent 8 hours extracting what information we are able, to answer part of the request.

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 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(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 £450 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.

Information concerning sexual offence statistics is published on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) website and is therefore reasonably accessible by other means as per Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The following link will take you to the appropriate page:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/recordedcrime/dataatpoliceforcearealevelincludingpivottable>

The total number of sexual offences recorded where the offender is aged 60 years or over at the time the offence was recorded, is provided in the table below:

Year	Total
2015	86
2016	137
2017	155
Grand Total	378

The total number of sexual offences recorded where the offender is aged 60 years or over at the time the offence occurred, is provided in the table below:

Year	Total
2015	61
2016	100
2017	115
Grand Total	276

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