



**SUFFOLK
CONSTABULARY**
Taking pride in keeping Suffolk safe

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 002390-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 30 June 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

"May you please supply me with the following information..."

- *The number of cyber stalking offences recorded per financial year between 2015 - 2019.*
- *Where possible may you please provide detail on each of the recorded cases i.e cyberstalking cases involving racially aggravated abuse etc*
- *The number of recorded cyber stalking offences that resulted in an arrest. Please provide the figures per financial year between 2015 - 2019*
- *The number of cyber stalking offences that resulted in charges / summons. Please provide the figures per financial year between 2015 - 2019*

For your reference, I have attached the Crown Prosecution Service's definition of cyberstalking: "Harassment can take place on the internet and through the misuse of email. This is sometimes known as 'cyberstalking'. This can include the use of social networking sites, chat rooms and other forums facilitated by technology. The internet can be used for a range of purposes relating to harassment, for example:

- *to locate personal information about a victim;*
- *to communicate with the victim;*
- *as a means of surveillance of the victim;*
- *identity theft such as subscribing the victim to services, purchasing goods and services in their name;*
- *damaging the reputation of the victim;*
- *electronic sabotage such as spamming and sending viruses; or*
- *tricking other internet users into harassing or threatening a victim."*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 17 July 2019

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

The Constabulary implemented the online flag in October 2015, as a result in a change in crime recording system. Information held prior to this time would require a manual review and we also do not hold arrest statistics in a searchable format prior to this time.



The information provided therefore relates to the time frame 19 October 2015 – 31 March 2019.

The total number of staling offences recorded with an online flag is provided in the table below including the offence category, there were no stalking offences recorded during 2015/16 with an online flag. The increase from 2015/16 will potentially be as a result in better force wide awareness of the use of the online flag within the crime system.

Offence	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
Harassment - Pursue course of conduct in breach of Sec 1 (1) which amounts to stalking	3	16	16
Stalking involving fear of violence	0	1	2
Stalking involving serious alarm/distress	5	4	4

The total number of those offences that resulted in an arrest being made is as follows:

Financial Year	Total
2016/2017	1
2017/2018	0
2018/2019	3

The total number of those offences that resulted in a charge being made, is as follows:

Financial Year	Total
2016/2017	0
2017/2018	0
2018/2019	1

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.

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/>

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.



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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 40 working 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