



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

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 002391-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 1 July 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

"I am specifically interested in missing people, please exclude "absent people" from the data if you are able, meaning someone who is missing but not at any apparent risk? If you include "absent people" amongst missing people in your data, please make that explicitly clear.

- 1. Please give your definition of a missing person (caveat if you include "absent people" in this definition)?*
- 2. The total number of missing persons cases (resolved and unresolved) for the last 10 years. ALSO, please include a year by year break down.*

The total number of missing persons cases for the last 10 years (resolved and unresolved) categorised by race. Please include raw figures and the percentage equivalent. ALSO, please include a year by year break down.

- 3. Please give your definition of a cold case vs unresolved case? Are they the same thing?*
- 4. In the data you have given me do you classify unresolved and cold cases together?*

Guidance:

PLEASE NOTE: when I use the term "accumulative" in the 2nd half of this FOI please do not include people who were missing in 2012, marked as unresolved or cold at the end of 2012, but then found in 2014 etc... For the 2nd half of this FOI I am purely interested in people who went missing and have never been found to the day of you responding to this FOI.

Total number of unresolved missing persons cases (exact same as above, but for unresolved cases) that remain unresolved to this day:

- 5. The total number of missing persons cases (unresolved) over the past 10 years. ALSO, please include a year by year break down.*

*The number of unresolved missing persons cases over the past 10 years categorised by race **that remain unsolved to this day**. There are some parts to this. ALSO, please include a year by year break down. Please include raw figures and the percentage equivalent."*



Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 16 July 2019

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

1. The Constabulary's definition of a missing person is as follows:

*'anyone whose whereabouts is unknown whatever the circumstances of disappearance. They will be considered **missing** until located and their well-being or otherwise established.'*
*The investigation into a **missing person** begins at the point of first notification to the police.*

Suffolk Constabulary use the NPCC definition of a missing person. Please note that the Constabulary does not use the absent category for anyone under the age of 18.

2. The total number of missing persons cases (resolved and unresolved) for the last 10 years, is provided below.

Calendar Year	Missing Person cases
2009	2899
2010	3238
2011	3069
2012	2658
2013	2542
2014	2049
2015	2505
2016	3450
2017	4056
2018	4092
Total	30558

The ethnicity of those missing persons is provided below, noting that the figures will be higher as an individual can go missing on more than one occasion.

Ethnicity	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Asian	86	75	168	134	156	95	64	60	66	59
Black	186	197	338	300	275	178	203	192	241	451
Chinese/Japanese/South	35	18	93	61	27	7	8	13	9	5



East Asian										
Middle Eastern	8	18	38	48	40	23	19	39	81	40
Unknown					1	0				14
White North European	2671	2978	2739	2341	2287	1733	2168	2976	3358	3210
White South European	127	245	638	530	423	209	171	205	336	320
Total	3113	3531	4014	3414	3209	2245	2633	3485	4091	4099

3. In terms of historical homicide, cold case and unresolved are the same thing. Cold Case is a more general public and media term.
4. Unresolved and cold cases are classified together.
5. There are currently 49 people classified as long-term missing and their cases remain unsolved at this time. The information is provided below by race and year.

Ethnicity	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Asian		2	1							
Black		1								
Chinese/Japanese/South East Asian					1		1	1		
Middle Eastern		1			1		1		1	1
Not Recorded		1	1			3	1		1	5
Unknown										1
White North European	1	1	1	3		3	5	5	2	2
White South European			1							
Total	1	6	4	3	2	6	8	6	4	9

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