



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 002478-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies on 8 July 2019 which you sought access to the following information:

1. *“The number of sexual offences reported in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 (broken down by month)*
2. *The number of sexual offences reported in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 which place within a workplace setting (broken down by month)*
3. *Of those reported in the workplace could the type offence be specified, please?”*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 22 July 2019

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

The Constabularies are unable to confirm the number of sexual offences recorded that have occurred in a workplace. Such information would potentially be noted within the crime freetext, however there is no specific field that would identify this information and allow us to complete a search of the crime system, without manually reviewing each offence.

There are over 15,000 offences recorded by both Constabularies during the time frame of your request and even at one minute per search it would take us an excessive amount of time to extract this data, well in excess of the 18 hours permitted for each Constabulary.

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 total number of sexual offences recorded by each Constabulary, by year and month, is provided in the table below.

Month	2016		2017		2018		2019	
	Norfolk	Suffolk	Norfolk	Suffolk	Norfolk	Suffolk	Norfolk	Suffolk
January	153	142	187	120	192	181	178	174
February	122	111	126	140	210	163	174	189
March	170	116	224	202	199	165	237	211
April	152	127	181	146	177	148	175	143
May	176	138	216	186	227	172	240	218
June	147	128	218	192	212	208	280	192
July	156	121	234	194	194	247		
August	154	113	171	153	251	184		
September	160	148	213	175	218	203		
October	155	129	190	159	228	225		
November	146	136	220	164	219	168		
December	135	119	185	160	188	177		
Total	1826	1528	2365	1991	2515	2241	1284	1127

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/>

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