



## **Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 002484-18**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 16 July 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"The total number of domestic violence offences recorded by your police force per day for June and July 2018.*
2. *The total number of domestic violence offences recorded by your police force per day for June and July 2014.*
3. *The total number of domestic violence offences recorded by your police force per day for June and July 2010.*
4. *For each of these three timeframes, the breakdown of the victims' gender.*
5. *For each of these three timeframes, the breakdown of the victims' relation to attacker.*
6. *If possible, the total number of domestic violence offences recorded per year that were documented as related to England football matches."*

## **Response to your Request**

The response provided below is correct as of 31 July 2018

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

The information requested for parts 4 and 5 of the request cannot be provided without completing a manual review of each domestic related offence recorded. There are no specific fields to quickly identify suspect/victim relationship or whether the offence related specifically to an England game.

Each of the 4,195 offences would need to be manually reviewed to extract this data and considering a search of 4 minutes per offence, the Constabulary anticipates it would take in excess of 280 hours to extract this data.

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.

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.

A search has been completed of the Constabulary's crime systems for all domestic related offences recorded during June and July of the years 2010, 2014 and 2018. Please be aware that the information for July 2018 is not a complete month but relates to all offences recorded by the Constabulary up to 30 July 2018.

The information has been extracted from two crime systems. Data for 2010 and 2014 is from a legacy system and all domestic violence offences were recorded using a DA Tag. Whereas data for 2018 is recorded on the current crime system and domestic related offences are classified as NC11, rather than using a marker. This may therefore result in differing returns depending on whether the inputting officer has correctly selected the appropriate classification. The data therefore cannot be used comparatively.

The data relates to offences reported to and recorded within the respective months and will not account for any offences that have occurred during this time, but reported at a later date.

Information provided on the attached spreadsheet confirms the total number of domestic abuse related offences recorded per day, by Suffolk Constabulary.

The data provided in the table below provides the monthly data by victim gender.

Year / Month	Victim Gender (where recorded)			Grand Total
	Female	Male	Not Recorded	
<b>2010</b>				
June	539	131	20	690
July	580	159	24	763
<b>2014</b>				
June	584	155	8	747
July	647	185	10	842
<b>2018</b>				
June	146	356	43	545
July	425	158	25	608
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2921</b>	<b>1144</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>4195</b>

***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.***

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](mailto: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](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