

**Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 002487-18**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 17 July 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

*“Under the Freedom of Information Act I would like to obtain the following information relating to each year and covering the last five years of available records:*

1. *How many criminal charges have been brought for meeting a child following sexual grooming and all similar charges relating to the online grooming of children?*
2. *Of those charges, how many resulted in prosecutions?*
3. *Of those prosecutions, how many included evidence obtained by so called ‘paedophile hunter’ groups?*
4. *How many overall prosecutions were successful?*
5. *Of those prosecutions how many included evidence obtained by so called ‘paedophile hunter’ groups?*
6. *How many of those successful prosecutions involved someone previously prosecuted for a child-grooming offence (repeat offenders)?”*

**Response to your Request**

The response provided below is correct as of 27 July 2018

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

Suffolk Constabulary has completed a search of the crime system Athena, for all offences recorded under Home Office Codes for Meeting a child following sexual grooming, which include 088/01 and 088/02.

The offences were then filtered to include only those with an outcome of ‘charge’. Please note that the Constabulary cannot provide prosecution information, which should be sought directly from the courts. We have therefore provided information relating to the offences that resulted in a charge.

The total number of charges brought in relation to child grooming offences, is as follows:

Offence	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Attempted - Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity No Penetration - Offender 18 or over			1	1		
Attempted - Meeting a female child following sexual grooming etc			1	3	1	2



(Offender is aged 18 or over and victim is under 16)						
Attempted - Meeting a male child following sexual grooming etc (Offender is 18 or over and victim is under 16)				1	2	
Causing or inciting a male child under 16 to engage in sexual activity by Penetration - Offender Under 18				1		
Meeting A Female Child Following Sexual Grooming Etc. (Offender Aged 18 Or Over & Victim Is Under 16)	1	1	4			
Meeting A Male Child Following Sexual Grooming Etc. (Offender Aged 18 Or Over & Victim Is Under 16)		1				
Sexual activity with a female child under 16 by Penetration - Offender 18 or over			1			
Sexual activity with a female child under 16 No penetration - Offender 18 or over				1		
Sexual assault of a female child under 13			1			
Sexual assault on a male					1	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>

Of those persons charged, the number of offences which involved evidence supplied by paedophile hunter groups was 5. This number has been derived from a manual review of each charge to establish whether this detail was mentioned within the crime freetext;

Offence	2016	2017	2018
Attempted - Meeting a female child following sexual grooming etc (Offender is aged 18 or over and victim is under 16)	1	1	1
Attempted - Meeting a male child following sexual grooming etc (Offender is 18 or over and victim is under 16)	1	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</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