

**Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 002495-18**

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. *i. What were the total number of cat theft crimes in 2015?  
ii. What was the outcome (charge/summons, community resolution, active investigation, evidential difficulties, no suspect identified) for each cat theft crime in 2015?*
2. *i. What were the total number of cat theft crimes in 2016?  
ii. What was the outcome (charge/summons, community resolution, active investigation, evidential difficulties, no suspect identified) for each cat theft crime in 2016?*
3. *i. What were the total number of cat theft crimes in 2017?  
ii. What was the outcome (charge/summons, community resolution, active investigation, evidential difficulties, no suspect identified) for each cat theft crime in 2017?*
4. *What criteria do you use for recording a cat/kitten as a theft as opposed to missing?*

**Response to your Request**

The response provided below is correct as of 30 July 2018

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

A search has been completed of the Constabulary's crime system for all thefts recorded where the cat or kitten appeared in the freetext of the crime.

The table provided below confirms the total number of offences recorded by outcome and year. Please note that the data relates to the number of offences as opposed to the number of cats or kittens stolen as for example, you can have multiple cats/kittens stolen relating to one recorded offence.

| <b>Outcome</b>   | <b>2015</b> | <b>2016</b> | <b>2017</b> |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Not recorded   | 3           |             | 2           |
| Type 14 - Evidential Difficulties Victim Based- Suspect Not Identified |             |             | 1           |
| Type 15 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties            |             |             | 2           |
| Type 16 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties Action     |             | 1           | 2           |
| Type 18 - Investigation Complete; No Suspect Identified.               |             | 3           | 4           |

|                                       |          |          |           |
|---------------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Type 8 - Community resolution (Crime) |          |          | 2         |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>13</b> |

Should the Constabulary receive a call to advise a cat has gone missing, and the owner suspects it has been stolen, a crime will be recorded in accordance with the Home Office Counting Rules.

***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