



## **Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 002506-18**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 30 July 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *“How many complaints have been made to your force regarding domestic abuse cases, where the victim is a live-in domestic worker (such as an au pair or housekeeper) over the past five years. I would like this information broken down by calendar year.*
2. *Of those in question one, how many of the victims were UK nationals - broken down by calendar year*
3. *Of those in question one, how many of the victims were EU internationals - broken down by calendar year*
4. *Of those in question one, how many of the victims were non-EU internationals - broken down by year.*
5. *Of the cases reported in question one - in how many cases was the accused a UK National - broken down by year*
6. *Of the cases reported in question one - in how many cases was an arrest made and charges brought against the alleged perpetrator - broken down by year*
7. *Of those cases reported in question six - in how many cases was a guilty verdict found in a court of law - broken down by year.”*

## **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.

In responding to the request for information, please be aware that the nationality and occupation fields are not mandatory. Therefore, for any occasions where this field has not been completed, the search will not return the offence, even if it is relevant to the request. The only way to ensure an accurate response would be to manually review all offences and this would well exceed the appropriate timescales permitted for FOI requests, given that this will require the review of many thousands of offences.



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 system for all domestic related offences, where the victim occupation contains one of the following keywords, noting that the search will not retrieve any relevant offences that do not contain these specific keywords in the victim occupation, owing to it being a non-mandatory field: "au pair", "care assistant", "care support worker", "care worker", "carer", "cleaning assistant", "domestic assistant", "domestic cleaner", "home carer", "house keeper" and "nanny".

1. The total number of domestic related offences recorded where the victim occupation is recorded as per the above mentioned search criteria, is as follows:

Year	Total
2013	38
2014	38

2015	39
2016	53
2017	87
2018	48
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>189</b>

2. The nationality of the victim is also a non-mandatory field and is not always completed. It is not categorised by EU and non-EU nationals and we have therefore supplied the data by nationality as per the crime recording system requirements. The nationality of the victims, where recorded is provided in the table below, by year of offence.

The information is presented in two tables as a result of a change in crime recording system in October 2015.

<b>Victim Nationality</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
England	24	25	21
Germany		1	
Lithuania		1	
Mozambique	1		
Poland	1	1	
South Africa		1	
United Kingdom	12	9	17
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>

<b>Victim Nationality</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
British	1	48	76	43
England			3	1
Hungarian		1		
Malawian				1
Nigerian (Nigerian)		1	1	1
Polish			4	
Romanian			2	2
Russian		2	1	
Somali		1		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>48</b>

3. As above
4. As above
5. The nationality of the suspect, where recorded, is provided in the table below, bearing in mind the caveat provided for victim nationality above. Please note that there will not always be a suspect for an offence.

The information is presented in two tables as a result of a change in crime recording system in October 2015.

Suspect Nationality	2013	2014	2015
Congo	1		
England	2	4	1
Lithuania		1	
Not Recorded	3		6
Poland		1	
Portugal	2		
South Africa		2	
St. Lucia		1	
United Kingdom	30	27	30
United States		2	
Unknown			1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>

Suspect Nationality	2016	2017	2018
African	1		1
Any Other Ethnic Group	1		
Any Other White Background		6	
Not Recorded	2	5	
Not stated			
White And Black Caribbean			
White British	26	24	22
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>23</b>

6. The total number of cases where an arrest was made and charges were brought against the suspect is provided below. Please note that this information is only available from 19 October

2015 onwards, as a result in a change in custody system and the data no longer being accessible.

Please note that some of the offences will still be under investigation.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total</b>
2013	21
2014	27
2015	27
2016	14
2017	17
2018	7
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>48</b>

7. The Constabulary does not record conviction data, which should be sought directly from the Courts.

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