



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 002565-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies on 16 July 2019 which you sought access to the following information:

- 1) *"The number of pedal bicycles reported as stolen to police in the calendar year of 2018*
- 2) *Of these, the number of stolen pedal bicycles recovered in the calendar year of 2018
Please may this be grouped by: a) Those recovered by police b) Those recovered by the bike owner*
- 3) *The number of arrests in the calendar year of 2018 for bicycle theft.*
- 4) *The number of people charged in the calendar year of 2018 for bicycle theft.*
- 5) *The number of pedal bicycles reported as stolen to police in the calendar year of 2017*
- 6) *Of these, the number of stolen pedal bicycles recovered in the calendar year of 2017
Please may this be grouped by: a) Those recovered by police b) Those recovered by the bike owner*
- 7) *The number of arrests in the calendar year of 2017 for bicycle theft.*
- 8) *The number of people charged in the calendar year of 2017 for bicycle theft.*
- 9) *The number of pedal bicycles reported as stolen to police in the calendar year of 2016*
- 10) *Of these, the number of stolen pedal bicycles recovered in the calendar year of 2016
Please may this be grouped by: a) Those recovered by police b) Those recovered by the bike owner*
- 11) *The number of arrests in the calendar year of 2016 for bicycle theft.*
- 12) *The number of people charged in the calendar year of 2016 for bicycle theft."*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 01 August 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 bikes that were recovered by the police or bike owner, as the information would only be contained within the freetext of the crime report. A manual review would be required to extract this information from the individual crimes.

There are approximately 150 bikes recorded as recovered in any one year across the two Constabularies, considering a search of 4 minutes per offence, it would take in excess of 30 hours to extract this information.

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 stolen bikes recorded by Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies during the 2016 – 2018 calendar years, is provided below, noting that the figure represents the number of bikes stolen as opposed to the number of investigations recorded. There could be more than one bike reported stolen in any one offence.

Crime Group	Norfolk			Suffolk		
	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
Theft	1397	1692	1313	1178	1372	1115
Robbery	7	11	15	8	5	13
Burglary	298	283	200	303	376	267

Of those bikes stolen above, the total number that have been recorded as 'recovered' is provided in the table below:

Year	Norfolk	Suffolk
2016	54	102
2017	59	101
2018	43	80

The total number of arrests recorded for 'Theft of a Pedal Bicycle' is provided in the table below:

Year	Norfolk	Suffolk
2016	57	21
2017	57	21
2018	49	16

The number of investigations that resulted in a charge is provided in the table below. Please note that this data has been derived from the crime data as opposed to persons charged following an arrest:

Crime Group	Norfolk			Suffolk		
	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
Theft	38	38	30	19	14	12
Robbery	1	2	0	0	1	1
Burglary	0	6	5	4	2	0

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