



## **Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 002599-18**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 23 July 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"How many incidents of animal cruelty were reported to the police in the Waveney area (Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth, and Lowestoft and surrounding areas) from June 2017 to July 2018 inclusive?"*
2. *Of those reports, how many led to a charge?*
3. *Of those reports which led to a charge, please include any photos that are relevant to the case.*
4. *Of the total reports, please provide a location, date, time, and any charge sheet or crime report (with appropriate redactions for data protection if necessary) for each."*

## **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.

A search has been completed of the Constabulary's call and crime systems, for all incidents and crimes relating to animal cruelty.

To extract data relating to calls, we undertook a freetext search of the term 'animal cruelty', as there is no specific flag for this type of incident. A total of two incidents were located in relation to animal cruelty within the Waveney Area. The details for which are as follows:

- Crime - Other Criminal Damage – June 2017 – Beccles – Dog had been shot – No charge
- No Crime - September 2017 – Lowestoft – Assist the RSPCA with a dog seizure

No offences were recorded for the Waveney area under Home Office Code 108/12 Cruelty to Animals.

The Constabulary would suggest that the most accurate information should be sought directly from the RSPCA or other bodies who deal specifically with animal cruelty and welfare.

***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