



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 002652-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies on 22 July 2019 which you sought access to the following information:

1. *“Please provide the number of recorded incidents of theft from vans/light commercial vehicles where the item was listed as a tool or similar in the last financial year (2018/19) or nearest recorded 12 month period.*
2. *Please provide the estimated/recorded cost of tools/items stolen from vehicles listed in Question 1 in last financial year (2018/19) or nearest recorded 12 month period.*
3. *Please provide the number of vans stolen in the last financial year (2018/19) or nearest recorded 12 month period.*
4. *Please provide a monthly breakdown for financial year 2018/19 or nearest recorded 12 month period in both Question 1, 2 and 3.”*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 5 August 2019

Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies have considered your request for information and the response is below.

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. It is considered that to provide an answer to your request will take in excess of 36 hours to provide the information.

In relation to Question 1, identifying thefts exclusively from vans would require us case reading all “theft from motor vehicles” where items stolen are recorded within the tool category. This would involve the manual review of 519 records

In relation to Question 2, the estimated cost of the associated tool theft is often not recorded within the “property value” section of the crime, instead the value will be noted within the crime free text. Of the 519 records, there are a total of 176 records that state “Not recorded” as the property value. We would therefore be required to research the remaining 176 records to establish if any value is recorded within the crime text. It should also be noted that even if a value is recorded, this may not be an accurate value so is not a reliable source of data.

In relation to Question 3 the number of vans stolen, this is reliant on the vehicle type and category being entered as Van, many of the stolen vehicles will not include the vehicle type and therefore to retrieve this data accurately would require us to manually review all “Theft of motor vehicle” offences to establish within the free text and crime details if the vehicle was a van/light commercial vehicle. There are a total of 941 offences relating to a theft of a vehicle, with only 53 specifically being recorded as a Van or Panel Van and 457 recorded with vehicle type as “not recorded”. Reviewing all records would enable us to establish if the vehicle was in fact a van/light commercial vehicle.

Based on the reasoning above with an approximate 5 minutes per search, to retrieve data for Questions 1 – 3 would way exceed the statutory time restraints of the FOI Act.

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 below table provides the number of theft of tools records from all vehicle types for the 2018/19 financial year:

Norfolk Constabulary	210
Suffolk Constabulary	309

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