



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 002663-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 26 July 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"Between 2013 and 2016, how many allegations of rape in total were made to your force? I confirm you do not need to break this information down year on year.*
2. *Of those allegations, how many subsequently resulted in a police investigation being opened (at any time)?*
3. *Of those, how many resulted in the matter being referred to the CPS (at any time)?*
4. *Of those, how many resulted in a charge (at any time)?*
5. *Of those how many resulted in a conviction at Crown Court (at any time)?"*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 6 July 2018

Suffolk Constabulary has 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. 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.

Information concerning the number of cases referred to the CPS is not held in an easily retrievable format. The information will be included within the crime files, however we would have to manually review each to establish whether CPS advice had been sought.

Considering there are approximately 300 rape offences in any one year, it would take in excess of 25 hours to extract the data for one year alone.



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 allegations of Rape and Attempted Rape for the 2013 – 2016 calendar years.

The total number of offences recorded during this time frame, are provided in the tables below, all of which will have had a police investigation. Please note that the information has been supplied in two tables as a result in a change in crime recording system during October 2015.

Year	Attempted Rape	Rape
2013	10	249
2014	10	332
01.01 – 19.10.2015	14	385

Year	Attempted Rape	Rape
19.10 – 31.12.2015	3	113
2016	19	467

The total number of offences that resulted in a person being charged is provided in the table below. This data has only been supplied from 19 October 2015 onwards as information prior to this date is held on a legacy system, which no longer has accessibility to the specific outcome. Please note that a charge is not the only available positive outcome and there will be a number of offences that remain under investigation.



Year	Attempted Rape	Rape
19.10 – 31.12.2015	1	20
2016	2	34

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*

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 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