

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 002727-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 8 August 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *“Could you please tell me how many minors (under the age of 18) have been arrested in each year since 2014 for offences relating to the supply of controlled drugs? I would like this information broken down by the age of the suspect, and the type of drug involved.*
2. *Can you also tell me how many of those have been charged, in each year? I would like this information broken down by age of the suspect, the charge, and type of drug involved.”*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 14 August 2019

Suffolk Constabulary has considered your request for information and the response is below.

The Constabulary is unable to provide arrest data prior to the introduction of the current crime and custody system Athena, which was introduced in October 2015. Arrest data prior to this time is held on a legacy system which is no longer available for bulk data extraction and consequently we would be required to manually review the data held to extract relevant arrest data.

Additionally, arrest data does not differentiate between drug type and we would therefore be required to manually review all 251 arrests recorded from October 2015 to date to establish what drug type was involved.

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 supply of controlled drug arrests recorded, where the offender is aged under 18 years old.

1. The tables provided below confirm the total number of arrests by age and type of drug.

Offence / Age	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Drugs - Concerned in supplying controlled drug			30	24	11
13			1		
14			2	1	
15			4	1	1
16			17	8	5
17			6	14	5
Drugs - Possession With Intent to supply - Class A	4	24	37	23	14
12					1
13			1		
14		1		1	1
15	2	1	5	3	3
16		12	12	7	5
17	2	10	19	12	4
Drugs - Possession With Intent to supply - other than Class A	2	12	19	17	15
13			1		
14		2			3
15	1	1	2	3	2
16	1	7	7	4	4
17		2	9	10	6
Drugs - Supplying controlled drug	1	7	9	1	1
14		1	1		



15		1	2		1
16	1	3	2		
17		2	4	1	
Grand Total	7	43	95	65	41

2. The table provided below confirm the total number of the above arrests that resulted in the individual being charged. Please note that there are other available positive outcomes other than a charge, and some of these investigations will be ongoing.

Offence / Age – Charge Data	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Drugs - Concerned in supplying controlled drug			3	9	1
14			1		
15				1	1
16			2	1	
17				7	
Drugs - Possession With Intent to supply - Class A	4	15	14	9	2
13		1			
14			1	1	
15		1		2	
16	2	4	9	2	1
17	2	9	4	4	1
Drugs - Possession With Intent to supply - other than Class A	7	9	10	4	1
15	2	2	1		
16	2	1	3	2	
17	3	6	6	2	1
Drugs - Supplying controlled drug	2	2	5	1	
14			1		
15		1	1	1	
16	1				
17	1	1	3		
Grand Total	13	26	32	23	4

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/>



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.



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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 40 working 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