



**SUFFOLK
CONSTABULARY**
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Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 002729-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 29 July 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

“The number of each of the following offences recorded in each calendar month for the years 2014-2019 (as up to date as possible) involving knives or sharp instruments.

- *Grievous bodily harm (GBH) with intent*
- *Grievous bodily harm (GBH) without intent*
- *Attempted murder*
- *Actual bodily harm (ABH)*
- *Rape*
- *Robbery*
- *Sexual assault*
- *Threats to kill”*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 12 August 2019

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

A search has been completed of the Constabulary’s crime information systems for the offences requested that relate to the possession of a weapon. The information was then filtered to include those that included the possession of a ‘knife’, ‘Knives’, ‘Blade’, ‘Axe’, ‘Scissors’, ‘Sword’ or ‘Machete’.

Please note that during the 2016/17 financial year, a business rule approach was implemented for knife crime data collection, to ensure the data was more accurate than using a generic freetext search or being reliant on specified keywords. Therefore data prior to this time is not directly comparable.

The information provided within the attached spreadsheet confirms the total number of offences recorded by month and year.

Please note that the information prior to 19 October 2015 has been sourced from a legacy crime system, and the results provided are not comparable due to the differences in crimes recording.

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



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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.

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