



**SUFFOLK
CONSTABULARY**
Taking pride in keeping Suffolk safe

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 002827-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 6 August 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

“If possible, please provide, for each of the last five financial years and this financial year up until July 9, 2019:

The number of crimes recorded with a domestic abuse marker/flag.

Of these crimes (with the domestic abuse marker/flag),

- a. The number for which a suspect was arrested then released on bail*
- b. The number for which a suspect was arrested then released under investigation (I understand released under investigation came into use in 2017, please provide this data for each financial year it has been in use).*
- c. The number for which a suspect was arrested then detained for court”*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 22 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 system, Athena, during October 2015. Arrest data held prior to this time is held on a legacy database that is no longer available for bulk data extraction. All arrest records would need to be reviewed manually to establish those that relate to domestic abuse and to then accumulate the additional information requested.

Additionally, the Constabulary is unable to confirm the number of offences recorded with a domestic abuse marker, which resulted in an arrest. This is because there is no reliable direct link between offence and arrest data. Some custody records will be recorded within the offence itself, but this is not a reliable means to extract arrest data as it is not exhaustive. Rather, the Constabulary would be required to review all arrests to establish those that resulted as a result of a recorded offence with a domestic marker attached. Considering there are over 29,000 offences recorded with a domestic abuse marker, it would take well in excess of 18 hours to extract the information requested in its entirety and accurately.

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.

The total number of offences recorded with a domestic abuse marker is provided in the table below, by financial year.

Financial Year	Total domestic marker offences
2014/2015	3809
2015/2016	4434
2016/2017	5224
2017/2018	6237
2018/2019	7418
2019/2020	2032
Grand Total	29154

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.

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