



Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 002852-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies on the 7 August 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"How many sexual offences alleged to have been committed in schools (primary and secondary) and sixth-form colleges in your force area were recorded by your police force for the period:*
 - a. *1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016*
 - b. *1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017*
 - c. *1 January 2018 to 31 July 2018*

2. *If details are available with respect to the offences recorded during the three time-periods specified in question 1:*
 - a. *How many of the offences were reported to have been committed against teachers?*
 - b. *How many of the offences were reported to have been committed against students?*
 - c. *How many of the offences were reported to have been committed by male students?*
 - d. *How many of the alleged victims were female?"*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 10 August 2018

Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies have considered your request for information and our 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. The victim occupation is a non-mandatory field and is seldom completed. There were a total of 336 sexual offences recorded by both Constabularies in the time frame specified where the premise type was either a school or college/university. Of those, only 15 had the victims occupation listed. We would need to review all of the other 321 offences to establish whether the victim was a teacher or student. This detail will not necessarily be within the crime text, it may also appear in statements or other evidential documentation. All of which would potentially need reviewing to establish whether the occupation was recorded, or to confirm that it was not.

We would also need to manually review all 336 offences to ensure the offence did occur at the location, as invariably offences will be disclosed to the school and they will be the reporting party, or the school may be the nearest identifiable landmark for the purpose of crime recording.

The Constabulary considers it would take in excess of 36 hours to extract this information.

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 following tables confirm the total number of sexual offences recorded where the location is either a School or College/University. As above, each would need to be manually reviewed to ensure the offence did actually occur within the school grounds. There may also be offences that have occurred outside of school hours.

Norfolk					
Premises Type	Victim Gender	2016	2017	2018	Total
College / University	Female	2	3	2	7
	Not Recorded		2	1	3
School	Female	53	46	19	118
	Male	12	14	9	35
	Not Recorded	17	23	16	56

Total	84	88	47	219
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Suffolk					
Premises Type	Victim Gender	2016	2017	2018	Total
College / University	Female	3	1	3	7
	Male	1			1
	Not Recorded		2	1	3
School	Female	13	28	14	55
	Male	2	7	5	14
	Not Recorded	9	11	17	37
Total		28	49	40	117

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/>

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 20 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