



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

## **Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 002890-19**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 9 August 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

***“How many reports of assaults did your police force attend on education premises in the past five years (2014 to present)?***

*I would like the information broken down by:*

- *Date*
- *Type of education setting (nursery/ preschool, primary school, secondary school and college/ university)*
- *Name of establishment*
- *Nature of assault (whether it involved children v children/ teacher v child/ teacher v teacher or a parent etc)*
- *The outcome (were charges brought?).”*

## **Response to your Request**

The response provided below is correct as of 29 August 2019

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

The Constabulary is unable to reliably confirm the nature of the assault, that is the relationship between the victim and suspect. In some cases, this is completed however looking at the Constabulary's current crime system alone, which relates to data from 19 October 2015 to date, 555 relevant offences do not have the relationship status recorded at all. We would need to review each one to establish the nature of the offence. At a reserved 2 minutes per offence, this would take in excess of 18.5 hours for this information alone.

Additionally, the legacy crime system contains data prior to 19 October 2015 and nature of the offence, or relationship status of victim and suspect, is not recorded in any searchable format. Each record would need to be reviewed to extract the information relevant to this part of the request. This equates to over 300 offences which would take an additional 12 hours approximately.

With regards to the crime location, the Constabulary has a location marker for school, university or college, however this does not necessarily mean that the incident occurred on school premises, rather that the offence occurred on or within the vicinity of the school, that being the nearest identifiable landmark. Therefore, further analysis would be required to establish the number occasions an offence has required the police to attend a school premise specifically.



Such research would realistically take as a minimum another 18 hours as we would need to review each offence to establish whether Constabulary officers attended the offence.

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 offences where the location is recorded as a school.

The information provided on the attached spreadsheet confirms the total number of violent offences recorded for the time frames specified, where the location of the offence is recorded as 'school'.

Please note that the information provided relates to all offences where a school is the location of the crime. This does not necessarily mean the offence occurred within the premise of the school, rather the surrounding areas and the location used as the nearest identifiable landmark for the purpose of crime recording.



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***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](mailto: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](http://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