



## **Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 003001-19**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies on 2 September 2019 which you sought access to the following information:

*“Please could you provide a breakdown of cases where the suspect is a child under the age of 14 for the following offences:*

- *Take/ make/ distribute Indecent Photographs Or Pseudo-Photographs Of Children;*
- *Possession of indecent photo or pseudo images of a child;*
- *Possessing prohibited images of children.*

*For each case, please provide the age of the suspect, the offence type (including any additional detail on the incident) and also the outcome of the case (e.g. police caution or Outcome 21).*

*Please provide this data for the years 2017, 2018 and 2019 up to 19 August 2019.”*

### **Response to your Request**

The response provided below is correct as of 5 September 2019

Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies have considered your request for information and the response is below.

A search has been completed of the Constabularies crime system for the requested offences from 1 January 2017 – 19 August 2019, where the suspect is aged 14 years and under. Please note that should a suspect's date of birth not be present they will not appear in this return.

The attached table confirms the age of the suspect, the offence and relevant outcome, noting that some of these offences will be under investigation.

Where a 'sexting' incident has taken place there is a Home Office requirement to record a crime. Where an image has been sent and then further distributed, there is a requirement for additional crimes to be recorded. For example:-

In a simple case of child (A) taking and sending an image to another child (B) who then retains the image, there will be 2 crimes recorded:-

Child A – Distributing an indecent image (the more serious of the two offences committed by that child)

Child B – Possession of an indecent image.

Further guidance can be found on the National Crime Recording Standards via the link provided below:-

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/791103/count-crimes-society-apr-2019.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/791103/count-crimes-society-apr-2019.pdf)

***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](mailto: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 40 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](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