

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 003069-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 22 August 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *“How many reports of fraud against individuals (as opposed to businesses) were reported to your police force between the following dates:
1st August 2017 to July 31st 2018
1st August 2016 to July 31st 2017
1st August 2015 to July 31st 2016*
2. *How many reported frauds against individuals (as opposed to businesses) resulted in a criminal conviction between the following dates:
1st August 2017 to July 31st 2018
1st August 2016 to July 31st 2017
1st August 2015 to July 31st 2016*

What was the age of individuals reporting fraud (non-business) to your police force between 1st of August 2015 and July 31st 2018 grouped into the following bands:

*<18
18-29
30-39
40-49
50-59
60-69
70-79
80+*

3. *What types of fraud were committed within your police force’s jurisdiction against individuals and how many cases of each type of fraud were reported?*
4. *What was the average monetary value of frauds committed in your jurisdiction between 1st of August 2015 and July 31st 2018.”*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 10 September 2018



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

Fraud offences are recorded by Action Fraud, therefore the Constabulary would suggest that the request should be redirected to them in order to obtain accurate data.

Information concerning Fraud does not differentiate between fraud against a person or business. As such, we would need to review each fraud offence recorded to establish the nature of the crime. Considering there are 521 for the time frame specified, this would take in excess of 34 hours to retrieve.

Additionally, the monetary value of frauds will, where recorded, be within the free text of the crime or contained within statements and other evidential documentation. And therefore we would need to review each to establish what if any information were recorded.

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 Fraud Offences reported to the Constabulary is provided in the table below. Please note that such offences are usually dealt with by Action Fraud and consequently the information provided will not offer an accurate reflection of the number of frauds in Suffolk. A large proportion of these offences will have been notified to Suffolk Constabulary from Action Fraud themselves. As such, we would suggest Action Fraud would have the most accurate data to answer this request.

Year	Total Crimes
01/08/2015 - 31/07/2016	276
01/08/2016 - 31/07/2017	151
01/08/2017 - 31/07/2018	92
Not Recorded	2
Grand Total	521

The age brackets of the persons reporting the fraud is provided below, noting that this is a non-mandatory field and consequently there are 239 offences where no age is recorded.

Age Range	Total
<18	7
18 - 29	91
30 - 39	49
40 - 49	41
50 - 59	47
60 - 69	21
70 - 79	15
80+	11
Not Recorded	239
Grand Total	521

Suffolk Constabulary does not record conviction data, which should be sought directly from the Courts.

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.



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 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 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