



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

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 003072-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 22 August 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

"I am writing to submit a Freedom of Information request about injuries and attacks involving police and community support officers.

Could you please state the number of police and community support officers who have been injured during a police operation.

Could you please also give a breakdown of the types of injuries sustained and also state how many of those injuries were inflicted by members of the public.

Please provide data for each of the last five years, plus the data you have for 2019 so far."

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 9 September 2019

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

Since April 2017, there have been offence codes relating to assaults on Police Officers which have resulted in either an injury or no injury. Prior to this there was only an offence category for assaults on officers with no injury. However, if an injury had occurred, this would have been recorded under the specific violent offence category, for example ABH, GBH, etc. Whilst there is a field on crime reports for the victim occupation, this is not a mandatory field and many are not completed.

To identify whether any of these reports relate to an assault on a Police Officer, it would be necessary to case read the details of each one. It would also be necessary to review these to see if the crime details whether the offence took place whilst the officer was on-duty.

In addition, offences from April 2017 onwards will incorporate assaults on both officers and PCSOs. We would have to review each one to establish whether the offences related to either a police officer or a PCSO.

Finally, we cannot establish whether the assaults occurred during a police operation, as the officer may have been on routine patrol. Again a manual review of all offences would be required to establish this information.



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 table provided below confirms the total number of offences recorded relating to an assault on a police officer (or PCSO). The information provided excludes attempted offences.

Offence Type	2018	2019
Assault or assault by beating of a constable	25	191
Assault Police - Assault with Injury - Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	77	45
Assault Police - Assault with Injury - Malicious wounding: wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm (Minor wound or equivalent)	10	6
Assault Police - Assault with Intent to cause Serious Harm - Wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm	1	0
Assault Police – Cause GBH with intent to resist/prevent arrest.	1	0
Assault Police - Wounding with intent to resist/prevent arrest	3	2
Assault without Injury on a Constable - Assaults a designated person or	1	0



his assistant in the exercise of a relevant power		
Assault without Injury on a Constable - Assaults a member of a joint investigation team carrying out his functions as a member of that team	1	0
Assault without Injury on a Constable - Vagrant violently resisting a constable	1	0
Assault without injury on a constable (Police Act offence)	306	74
Grand Total	426	318

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