



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 003159-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 3 September 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"The number of women that reported domestic abuse related incidents or offences.*
 - a. *In 2019 to date; and*
 - b. *In any of the previous five calendar years*

2. *Please disaggregate this data by those who were British citizens and those who were not."*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 25 September 2019

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

The nationality of the victim is not a mandatory recording requirement and is generally not completed. Therefore, to ensure the Constabulary provide an accurate response to this question, we would be required to manually review each offence to establish whether the nationality of the victim was mentioned within the freetext of the crime.

Considering this will involve the review of thousands of records, this would take well in excess of 18 hours to review.

Additionally, domestic related incidents do not generally record an individual as a victim or suspect, rather an involved party. Each incident would need to be manually reviewed in order to establish who reported the offence initially and their gender.

There are 7,874 incidents on the legacy crime system and 17,154 on the current crime system. Considering a search of 3 minutes per incident, this would take an excessive amount of time to extract this data.

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 domestic related offences recorded from 2014 to date. The data was then filtered to include those where the victim is recorded as female.

The total number of domestic related offences recorded with a female victim, is as follows. Please note that this information relates to domestic crimes as opposed to domestic incidents. Please note that data recorded on the current crime system cannot be compared to the legacy data as a result in a change in recorded processes.

Year	Total
2014	8657
2015	8091
2016	3693
2017	4669
2018	5342
2019	3469

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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Taking pride in keeping Suffolk safe

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