



8<sup>th</sup> October 2019

## Freedom of Information Request Reference N<sup>o</sup>: FOI 003265/19

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

Can you please provide the following information in regards to domestic burglaries between Apr'18 – Mar'19, within the enforcement area – or the most up to date annual time period you have available.

- 1 How many residential burglaries were committed in the enforcement area
- 2 What were the points of entry used to gain entry i.e. how many by door (front or rear), window (front, rear, upper or lower) or other
- 3 What were the methods to gain entry i.e. how many used a key, were insecure (walked in), attacked door, attacked window, climbed in or other
- 4 What time the incidents occurred i.e. how many occurred in the morning, afternoon, evening, nighttime
- 5 Type of damage and estimated cost of damage incurred by incidents
- 6 Cost of stolen items in incidents i.e how many incidents results in £0 - £50 worth of stolen items, £51 – 100 worth of stolen items, £101 – 200 worth of stolen items etc.
- 7 Offender characteristics in incidents i.e. age group, gender, number of offenders, ethnicity

## Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies have considered your request and our response is below:-

When responding to a request for information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, a public authority is not obliged to provide information if the authority estimates that the cost of the retrieval of the information requested would be in excess of £450 (equivalent to 18 hours work).

The costs criteria relates to a request in its entirety, which means that if we cannot retrieve all of the information requested within the costs limit, we are not obliged to retrieve *any* of the information requested.

The Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies estimates that to retrieve all the information you have requested for both forces would exceed cost in excess of £450 (per force).

Research has been undertaken of recorded residential burglaries for the period requested. This has returned 1,939 crime reports for Norfolk and 2,184 for Suffolk. Of this number, only 399 crimes have the entry point recorded in a specific searchable field. Additionally, 407 of the crimes have the entry method field completed.

The same applies for the other specific details that have been requested. Therefore in order to provide any accurate figures, it would be necessary to read through all of the crime reports.

Due to the number of crimes, this would be an enormous task which would significantly exceed the appropriate limit for dealing with a Freedom of Information request, in terms of costs, and therefore Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act applies.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 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 2004, defines the ‘appropriate limit’ for the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies as £450 for each Constabulary, and specifies that this sum equates to 18 hours work at a standard rate of £25 per hour.

In accordance with Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000), this serves as a Refusal Notice for your request.

#### Advice & assistance

Although excess cost removes Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relevant to your request, which was 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.

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Offence Title	Norfolk	Suffolk
Aggravated Burglary - Residential - Dwelling	37	11
Aggravated Burglary - Residential - Non-Dwelling	1	1
Burglary - Residential - Dwelling	1154	1219
Burglary - Residential - Non-Dwelling	729	937
Distraction Burglary - Residential - Dwelling	17	15
Distraction Burglary - Residential - Non-Dwelling	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1939</b>	<b>2184</b>

This response will be published on the Constabularies web-site under the Freedom of Information pages:-

<https://www.norfolk.police.uk/about-us/our-data/disclosure-log>

<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/services/freedom-information/disclosure-logs>

Should you have any further queries concerning this request, please contact Amanda Gibson, 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 40 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  
Norfolk Constabulary  
Operations and Communications Centre  
Jubilee House  
Falconers Chase  
Wymondham  
Norfolk NR18 0WW  
OR  
Email: [freedomofinformation@norfolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@norfolk.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 20 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