



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 003266-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 7 September 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. "The number of crimes that have been screened 'out' for further investigation or 'filed' shortly after it was reported to the police. These are cases which do not qualify for investigation after an initial screening process. Please provide this information for the calendar years 2014-17, and to date (May 25th) for 2018. Please break this information down into individual offence as per the Count Offence Classification Index - https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/662135/count-offence-classification-index-nov-2017.pdf

In terms of what to search your database for to bring up this information, can you provide the number of crimes, per offence per year as detailed above, which fall under the following parameters: Closed Outcome 18, within 24 hours of being reported, and with no Officer In Case or LPU assigned to it.

2. Please can you provide me with the number of crimes reported to your force for the calendar years 2014-17 and to date (May 25th) for 2018. Please break this information down into individual offence as per the Count Offence Classification Index - https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/662135/count-offence-classification-index-nov-2017.pdf. For avoidance of doubt, this should give me a comparable list to Q1 above, showing all crime, so I can see what proportion of all crime the 'screened out' makes up, broken down by offence.
3. Please provide me with copies of any policy/training documents/any other material which lay out under what circumstances a crime can be Screened Out. I've given some examples of the kind of thing I'm after, below, but my request is not simply limited to these examples but anything which explains what crimes and under what circumstances can be Screened Out. Please also provide anything covering what crimes should/should not be subject to further investigation, even if that material does not mention the phrase 'screened out'.

Please can you provide me with a copy of the assessment criteria used by staff to determine whether a reported crime should be Screened Out

Please can you provide me with a copy of the policy document showing what crimes are eligible to potentially be Screened Out ? It might cover, for example, if there is a value under which thefts are eligible to potentially be Screened Out

Please can you provide me with any documents made available to staff explaining/training/discussing what level of investigation is appropriate for a various types of crime, which might also mention when a crime should be Screened Out.

Please can you provide me with any documents or other material covering how staff should make the decision whether or not to Screen Out a crime. By this I mean any document or other material, perhaps - but not limited to - one used in training or in practice, which discusses, gives examples, or outlines a procedure around on what occasions a crime should be investigated further, and when it should not.”

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of, 2018.

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

A search has been completed of the Constabulary’s crime system for all offences recorded between 1 January 2014 – 19 October 2015, which have a status of no crime or undetected and were closed within 24 hours of them being recorded.

1. The total number of offences recorded that fall within the above search criteria, is as follows by offence and year:

Data for 1 January 2014 – 19 October 2015

HOCR Offence Group	2014	2015
Arson & Criminal Damage	373	568
Burglary	38	168
Drug Offences	2	27
Exclude from stats	442	598
Other Offences	21	127
Robbery	2	1
Sexual Offences	8	21
Theft	826	1207
Violence Against the Person	69	218
Grand Total	1781	2935

Data for 19 October 2015 – 16 September 2018

HOCR Offence Group	2015	2016	2017	2018
Arson And Criminal Damage	11	159	50	76
Burglary	2	44	18	47
Drug Offences				1
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	1			
Non-Crime				1
Non-Notifiable		1	2	1
Public Order Offences		7	4	9
Sexual Offences	1	1	1	1
Theft	9	184	67	112
Vehicle Offences	5	145	41	73
Violence Against The Person	1	8	7	19
Grand Total	30	549	190	340

2. The total number of offences reported to the Constabulary during the same time frame as above, is as follows:

Data for 1 January 2014 – 19 October 2015

HOCR Offence Group	2014	2015
Arson & Criminal Damage	6704	5824
Burglary	3863	3141
Drug Offences	3585	2343
Exclude from stats	10650	8382
Other Offences	3030	4165
Robbery	179	180
Sexual Offences	1181	1420
Theft	13458	11317
Violence Against the Person	8000	9560
Grand Total	50650	46332

Data for 19 October 2015 – 16 September 2018

HOCR Offence Group	2015	2016	2017	2018
Arson And Criminal Damage	1284	6475	7131	4619
Burglary	770	3868	4185	2904
Drug Offences	273	1243	1490	885
Fraud and Forgery	2	13	4	
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	208	955	1134	780
NFIB Fraud	10	38	10	
Possession Of Weapons	66	300	384	305
Public Order Offences	551	3162	4557	3619
Robbery	55	255	359	326
Sexual Offences	354	1529	2051	1604
Theft	1872	9574	10839	7524
Vehicle Offences	627	3207	3687	2479
Violence Against The Person	2435	13301	16582	12995
Grand Total	8507	43920	52413	38040

- Suffolk Constabulary does not screen out any crimes on a set criteria such as value or crime type. Each report is assessed on its own merits against the 8 point investigation plan and the proportionality document. This ensures that a proportionate investigation is undertaken for all crime reports.

Crimes are screened out where there are no identified proportionate lines of enquiry based on the responses to the 8 point plan assessment and with consideration of the proportionality document.

An example of this would be the theft of a garden ornament from a residential address over a long time frame. Questions would be asked of the reporting person to cover CCTV nearby, how long a time frame the item has been gone, whether they have had any problems with anyone specific, whether they had spoken to their neighbours and if they had seen or heard anything. If the answers to all this did not provide any viable lines of enquiry then the victim would be advised that in this instance the investigation would be filed. This is always with the caveat that if further information comes to light then the victim can contact the officer and further consideration would be made as to whether it was proportionate to re-open an investigation.

The proportionate investigation does request that victims and reporting persons access their own CCTV where they control it and also that they speak to neighbours such as in the circumstances above, for lower value offences. Proportionate investigation can be applied



to most types of crime and allows investigators to identify those crimes that have the best opportunities to progress to apprehension of suspects to be highlighted at an early stage.

Suffolk does not have a value policy to screen out crimes, as above, each report is taken on its merits. E.g. a shoplifting with an unknown teenager stealing 1 bar of chocolate where there is no clear CCTV of the theft would be screened out once all the questions had been asked, however a shoplifting of the same value where there is a named offender and CCTV would be pursued in order to provide opportunity to arrest and search an address, and prosecute an offender who would go on to commit further offences if this was not addressed.

Where staff identify a screened out crime these are further assessed by the Detective Sergeant on ICMH or the IMU processor to ensure opportunities are not missed but investigations where there are no clear viable lines of enquiry are also quickly processed to ensure time is not wasted.

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 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