



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 003279-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 2 October 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

“How many females have been arrested for possession with intent to supply by your police force where the suspect’s home address is outside of the area your police force covers?”

Can you tell me these figures for 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018?

If possible within the time limit, can you tell me what drugs they were arrested for and how old they were?”

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 26 September 2019

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

Information concerning arrest data is only held by the Constabulary in a searchable format from 19 October 2015 onwards as a result in a change in crime and custody recording systems during that time. Therefore, the information we have supplied relates to the time frame 19 October 2015 – 31 December 2018.

A search has been completed of the Constabulary’s crime system for all arrests made concerning the supply of controlled drugs, possession with intent to supply and the supply of a controlled drug.

The information provided below relates to the supply and possession of drug offences and is should not be considered an indication of county lines activity within the County.

The total number of females arrested, where the home address provided is outside of Suffolk force area, was 22, broken down by year below.

Year	Live outside of Suffolk
2015*	4
2016	4
2017	7
2018	7



*19 October – 31 December 2015

The age of the females arrested, is as follows:

Age	2015*	2016	2017	2018
16	1		2	
17	1		1	
18	1			1
19			1	
20		1	1	
22			1	
23		2		
24	1			
25				2
27				1
29			1	
30				1
36				1
37		1		
44				1

The arresting offences were as follows:

Arresting Offence	2015*	2016	2017	2018
Drugs - Concerned in supplying controlled drug				4
Drugs - Possession With Intent to supply - Class A	3	2	5	2
Drugs - Possession With Intent to supply - other than Class A				1
Drugs - Supplying controlled drug	1	2	2	

In addition to the above information, Suffolk Constabulary can **neither confirm nor deny** that it holds any other information relevant to the whole of your request by virtue of the following exemption:

Section 23(5) – Information supplied by, or concerning, certain security bodies
Section 30(3) – Investigations

The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, compliance with section 1(1)(a) would involve the disclosure of any information (whether or not already recorded), which was



directly or indirectly supplied to the public authority by, or relates to, any bodies specified in subsection (3).

This is an absolute exemption and I am therefore not required to complete a public interest test.

Section 30 is a class based qualified exemption and consideration of the public interest must be given as to whether neither confirming nor denying whether information is held is the appropriate response.

Factors favouring confirmation or denial – Section 30

The Police Service is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. Confirming whether or not any information is held would promote public trust in providing transparency and demonstrating openness and accountability, into how investigations take place, and the use of resources.

It would also provide reassurance to the public that the Constabulary takes all reports of crimes seriously and conducts investigations appropriately. To confirm whether information is held would assist the public with a better understanding of the effectiveness of the Constabulary. Increased confidence would lead to more information being provided to the Police to assist with enquiries.

Factors against confirmation or denial – Section 30

Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of policing and providing assurance, there is a strong public interest in safeguarding the integrity of police investigations and operations and in maintaining confidence in the Constabulary. Confirmation or denial of whether any other information is held, could undermine covert policing and identify investigative activity which would undermine the investigation process and the integrity of police operations.

Confirmation or denial that any other information is held would prejudice how investigations are carried out in the future by revealing covert investigative activities and consequently, the prevention and detection of crime would be hindered along with the Constabulary's law enforcement capabilities.

Balance

Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of policing operations and providing assurance that the Constabulary is appropriately and effectively investigating offences, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding the integrity of police investigations and operations with regards to covert policing.



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The Police Service relies heavily on the public and other agencies providing and sharing information to assist in criminal investigations. The public has an expectation that any information they provide will be treated in confidence. Anything which places that confidence at risk, no matter how general, would undermine any trust or confidence in the Constabularies. As stated within the harm we also have a duty to protect and defend victims and vulnerable individuals.

Information that may indicate what intelligence the Constabulary is or is not aware of, will have national implications of law enforcement capabilities for forces tackling County Lines.

Having weighed up the factors above, I have decided that the balance lies in favour of neither confirming nor denying whether any relevant information is held.

This cannot be taken as confirmation or otherwise that further information does or does not exist.

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