



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

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 003300-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 12 September 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"I would like to know how many vehicle thefts there have been in Suffolk during the past three years. Any data around this time would be much appreciated.*
2. *How many of these thefts led to a conviction?*
3. *How many cars were recovered following the thefts?*

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.

The Constabulary is unable to confirm the total number of vehicles stolen as this level of detail is not recorded in a searchable field. The Constabulary would be required to manually review each offence recorded to establish the number of vehicles stolen, as there may be more than one vehicle stolen in any one offence.

Considering a search of 4 minutes per offence, considering the time it would take to review a variety of documentation, including the crime report and statements, it is considered such a retrieval would take in excess of 50 hours for 2018 data alone.

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 Theft of Motor Vehicle offences recorded during the 2016 – 2018 calendar years.

The table provided below confirms the total number of offences recorded, by year and outcome.

Offence / Outcome	2016	2017	2018
Theft of a motor vehicle			
Not Recorded	7		
Type 1	27	66	26
Type 10	1	1	1
Type 13	2		
Type 14	7	7	13
Type 15	61	81	77
Type 16	27	38	35
Type 17	1	1	1
Type 18	326	334	423
Type 1A	2	2	3
Type 2		1	9
Type 20	2	2	7
Type 21	5	1	
Type 3			4
Type 4	6	23	13
Type 5			2
Type 8	2	3	2
Type 9		2	
Unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle (does not include 'driving or being carried			



knowing motor vehicle has been taken ')			
Type 1	34	53	35
Type 10			1
Type 13		1	
Type 14	1	2	2
Type 15	7	23	21
Type 16	28	44	43
Type 17	2	1	3
Type 18	38	31	32
Type 2	2		
Type 20	1	1	
Type 21		1	
Type 3	4	5	6
Type 4	1	2	4
Type 8	5	3	3
Grand Total	599	729	766

Outcomes
Type 1 - Charged/Summoned/Postal Requisition
Type 1A - Charged/Summons - alternate offence. Offender has been charged under the alternate offence rule.
Type 10 - Formal Action Against Offender is not in the Public Interest (Police)
Type 13 - Prosecution Prevented-Named Suspect Identified But Victim Or Key Witness Is Dead Or Too Ill To Give Evidence
Type 14 - Evidential Difficulties Victim Based- Suspect Not Identified: Crime Confirmed But The Victim Either Declines Or Unable To Support Further Police Investigation To Identify The Offender
Type 15 - Named Suspect Identified: Victim Supports Police Action But Evidential Difficulties Prevent Further Action
Type 16 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties Prevent Further Action: Victim Does Not Support (Or Has Withdrawn Support From) Police Action
Type 17 - Prosecution Time Limit Expired: Suspect Identified But Prosecution Time Limit Has Expired
Type 18 - Investigation Complete; No Suspect Identified. Crime Investigated As Far As Reasonably Possible-Case Closed Pending Further Investigative Opportunities Becoming Available
Type 2 - Caution Youth
Type 20 - Further action resulting from the crime report will be undertaken by another body or agency subject to the victim (or person acting on their behalf) being made aware of the act to be taken
Type 21 - Further investigation resulting from crime report which could provide evidence sufficient to support formal action against the suspect is not in the public interest - police decision.
Type 3 - Caution Adult
Type 4 - TIC - Taken into Consideration
Type 5 – Offender has died
Type 8 - Community resolution (Crime)



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Type 9 - Prosecution Not In the Public Interest (CPS)

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