



## **Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 003306-18**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 12 September 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

*“I wish to know the total number of children under the age of 18 who have been arrested for drugs-related offences in the past eight years, divided by financial year (2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-2017, 2017-18)*

*For each case can you let me know:*

- The child's age*
- Their gender*
- What offence they were arrested for*
- The drug or type of drugs involved (if known)”*

### **Response to your Request**

The response provided below is correct as of 20 September 2018.

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

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.

In order to extract the type of drug concerned with the offences, there is a requirement to manually review the custody and crime data. This information is embedded within the arrest and crime data, for which there were 272 records for the time frame requested.

Considering a search of 4 minutes per arrest, it would take in excess of 18 hours to extract the data requested for this part of your request.

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 and custody data for all drug related arrests made of children for the 2010/11 – 2017/18 financial years. The information provided in the table below confirms the arresting offence, gender and age of the individual arrested.

Gender / Arresting Offence	Age	15/16	16/17	17/18	Total
<b>Female</b>					
Driving - Excess Drugs	17		1		1
Driving - In Charge - Unfit Through Drink/Drugs	17		1		1
Drugs - Concerned in supplying controlled drug	14			1	1
	15			2	2
	16			5	5
Drugs - Possess Class A	16		1		1
Drugs - Possess Class B or C	13		1		1
	17		2		2
Drugs - Possession With Intent to supply - Class A	14			1	1
	15			1	1
	16			2	2
	17	1	1		2
Drugs - Possession With Intent to supply - other than	16			1	1



Class A	17			2	<b>2</b>
Drugs - Supplying controlled drug	14	1			<b>1</b>
	16	1			<b>1</b>
	17			1	<b>1</b>
<b>Male</b>					
Driving - Excess Drugs	16		3	4	<b>7</b>
	17	2	8	15	<b>25</b>
Driving - Unfit Through Drink/Drugs	17	1	1	1	<b>3</b>
Drugs - Concerned in supplying controlled drug	13			1	<b>1</b>
	14			2	<b>2</b>
	15			2	<b>2</b>
	16			12	<b>12</b>
	17			9	<b>9</b>
Drugs - Cult. Cannabis	16		1		<b>1</b>
	17	1			<b>1</b>
Drugs - Possess Class A	13			1	<b>1</b>
	14			1	<b>1</b>
	15		1	1	<b>2</b>
	16	1	5	1	<b>7</b>
	17	2	3	8	<b>13</b>
Drugs - Possess Class B or C	13		1		<b>1</b>
	14		4	3	<b>7</b>
	15			4	<b>4</b>
	16	1	4	8	<b>13</b>
	17	4	3	10	<b>17</b>
Drugs - Possession With Intent to supply - Class A	14		1		<b>1</b>
	15	3		4	<b>7</b>
	16	1	16	8	<b>25</b>
	17	2	13	17	<b>32</b>
Drugs - Possession With Intent to supply - other than Class A	13			1	<b>1</b>
	14	1	1		<b>2</b>



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	15	1	1	3	5
	16	1	8	7	16
	17		4	8	12
Drugs - Supplying controlled drug	14			1	1
	15		2	1	3
	16	1	4		5
	17	2		3	5
Obstructing powers of search for drugs	15		1		1
<b>Unspecified</b>					
Drugs - Possession With Intent to supply - Class A	13			1	1
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>27</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>272</b>

***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.***

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](mailto: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](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