

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 003329-18

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:

“Please note, for the purposes of this request I refer you to the new psychoactive substance ban that came into place on May 26, 2016.

1. *Since the start of the blanket ban on May 26 in 2016, how many people have you stopped for being in possession of the new psychoactive substance spice?
Please provide:*
 - a. *the age ranges of the people stopped (as provided in the example below)*
 - b. *the specific age for the youngest person stopped*

2. *Since the start of the blanket ban on May 26 in 2016, how many people have you arrested on suspicion of dealing the new psychoactive substance spice?
Please provide:*
 - a. *the age ranges of the people arrested (as provided in the example below)*
 - b. *the specific age for the youngest person arrested.”*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 19 September 2018

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

Suffolk Constabulary is unable to identify those occasions where a person has been stopped or arrested for the possession or dealing of Spice. The information will identify that the incident involved a psychoactive substance, but does not categorise the specific substance concerned.

The information provided below is in relation to psychoactive substances and does not specifically concern Spice.

1. A search has been completed of the Constabulary’s stop and search data for all persons stopped for being in possession of a psychoactive substance.

Reason for Stop	Outcome	Age	Total
D - To investigate suspected crime / disorder / ASB	Suspected psychoactive substances seized – No further action	20	1
		26	1

E - To follow up call for service / info received		24	1
Grand Total			3

2. A search has been completed of the Constabulary's crime system for all arrests made of persons suspected to be dealing a psychoactive substance.

Offence	Outcome	Age	Total
Possess a psychoactive substance in a custodial institution	Type 15 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties	31	1
Possess a psychoactive substance with intent to supply	Not Recorded	26	2
	Type 1 - Charged/Summoned/Postal Requisition	17	1
		59	1
	Type 15 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties	23	4
	Type 2 - Caution Youth	16	1
Grand Total			10

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*

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