



## **Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 003414-18**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 18 September 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

*“The number of arrests for drug use, with the age of offender specified (I only require information for those aged between 14 and 28), and type of drug specified.*

*I require data for the following time frames: 2008/09 – 2017/18.”*

### **Response to your Request**

The response provided below is correct as of 26 September 2018

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

Information concerning arrest data prior to the current crime and custody system Athena, is located within the NSIPS system, which holds data up to 19 October 2015..

There are over 4000 unique custody references for the time frame 2008/09 – 2015/16 (up to 19 October 2015), concerning people arrested for drug possession aged between 14 and 28 years of age. However, the data is not presented in a way to easily identify the total number of arrests made, as the data matches nominals to custody reference numbers and then separately crime numbers, creating over 3000 duplicated entries. Each would need to be manually reviewed in order to ensure the correct data is used to provide an accurate response.

Additionally, for this time frame, the type of drug is not recorded within the arrest data, although we can establish in some instances the drug type by cross referencing with the crime data, there are over 500 occasions where the drug type is recorded as ‘other’ within crime data. Each would need to be reviewed to extract the specific drug involved.

Considering a search of 2 minutes per entry, it would take in excess of 130 hours to extract the data relevant to the request.

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 possession of drug offences recorded during the financial years 2015/16 (from 19 October 2015) – 2017/18, where the age of the offender has been recorded as being 14 – 28 years old.

Please note that the information supplied will only relate to those offences where a data of birth has been entered. This is a non-mandatory field and consequently, there may be additional relevant offences recorded that have not been included within this response owing to the date of birth not being present.

Suspect Age	Drug	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
14	Class A - Other			1
	Class B - Cannabis	1	3	2
15	Class A - Cocaine			1
	Class A - Heroin	1	1	
	Class B - Cannabis		1	4
16	Class A - Cocaine		3	1
	Class A - Crack		1	
	Class A - Heroin		2	



	Class B - Cannabis	1	8	11
	Class unspecified	1		
<b>17</b>	Class A - Cocaine			3
	Class A - Crack	1		
	Class A - Heroin			1
	Class A - MDMA	1	1	2
	Class A - Other			1
	Class B - Amphetami			1
	Class B - Cannabis	5	13	12
	Class B - Ketamine		1	
<b>18</b>	Class A - Cocaine	1	2	2
	Class A - Crack	1		1
	Class A - Heroin		1	
	Class A - MDMA		2	2
	Class A - Other	1		
	Class B - Cannabis	6	10	9
<b>19</b>	Class A - Cocaine		4	5
	Class A - Heroin			2
	Class A - MDMA			1
	Class B - Amphetami	1	1	
	Class B - Cannabis	6	7	10
	Class C - Other			1
	Class C - Piperazin			1
	Class unspecified		1	
<b>20</b>	Class A - Cocaine		1	2
	Class A - Crack			1
	Class A - Other	1		
	Class B - Amphetami			2
	Class B - Cannabis	3	5	9
	Class B - Ketamine	1	1	
	Class unspecified	1		
<b>21</b>	Class A - Cocaine		3	6
	Class A - Crack			1



	Class A - Heroin		1	3
	Class B - Cannabis	2	5	15
	Class C - Other		1	
	Class unspecified	1		
<b>22</b>	Class A - Cocaine	1	2	1
	Class A - Heroin	2	2	
	Class A - MDMA	1		
	Class A - Other			1
	Class B - Cannabis	3	8	10
<b>23</b>	Class A - Cocaine		4	
	Class A - Crack		1	
	Class A - Heroin		2	
	Class A - MDMA	1	1	
	Class A - Other		2	
	Class B - Amphetami	1		
	Class B - Cannabis	1	14	4
	Class B - Ketamine	1	2	
	Psychoactive substance		1	
<b>24</b>	Class A - Cocaine	1	8	1
	Class A - Crack		2	
	Class A - Heroin			1
	Class A - LSD		1	
	Class B - Amphetami			1
	Class B - Cannabis	3	4	8
	Class C - Other			1
<b>25</b>	Class A - Cocaine	1	6	1
	Class A - Crack	1	1	
	Class A - Other			2
	Class B - Amphetami		1	
	Class B - Cannabis	6	4	7
	Class B - Ketamine			1
	Class B - Other	1		
	Class C - Other			1



<b>26</b>	Class A - Cocaine	1	4	2
	Class A - Heroin		2	1
	Class A - MDMA			1
	Class B - Amphetami			1
	Class B - Cannabis	3	10	7
	Class B - Ketamine			1
	Class C - Other		1	
	Class unspecified			2
<b>27</b>	Class A - Cocaine	2	2	1
	Class A - Crack	1		
	Class B - Amphetami			2
	Class B - Cannabis		9	7
<b>28</b>	Class A - Cocaine	1	4	5
	Class A - Crack		1	1
	Class A - Heroin		1	1
	Class A - Other	1		2
	Class B - Cannabis	4	8	7
	Class B - Ketamine			1
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>73</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>195</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.***

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.



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