



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

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 003425-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 23 September 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

“This is a Freedom of Information request through which we would like to obtain the following information for the period between 1st of August 2015 to 1st of July 2019:

- 1. The total number of football-related hate crimes recorded by Suffolk Constabulary in its territorial area for the period stated;*
- 2. Further to question 1, please include a breakdown by season (i.e. 2015-16; 2016-17; 2017-18; 2018-19);*
- 3. Of the total number of hate crimes recorded each season, please provide a breakdown by the nature of the incidents recorded (for instance, how many of these incidents related to the victim’s actual or perceived ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, disability, or for being a transgender)*
- 4. Of the total number of hate crimes recorded each season, please provide a breakdown by status of the victim, i.e. whether the victim was a football player; a member of staff (such as the head coach; steward etc); a referee; or a spectator;*
- 5. Of the total number of hate crimes recorded each season, please provide a breakdown by status of the alleged perpetrator, i.e. whether the perpetrator was a football player; a member of staff (such as the head coach); a referee; or a spectator;*
- 6. Further to question 1, please include in your response a breakdown of the action taken, i.e. whether the perpetrator was prosecuted and/or given a Football Banning Order; if the perpetrator was given a warning; or if no action was taken;*
- 7. Further to question 6, please provide a breakdown of the offences perpetrators were charged with (for instance, if the perpetrator was charged under the Public Order Act 1986; the Football (Offences) Act 1991; or the Crime and Disorder Act 1998);*
- 8. Further to question 6, please provide a breakdown of the successful and unsuccessful prosecutions.*

By ‘football-related’ hate incidents, I mean those hate incidents which:

- a. *Took place during the course of any football match or club training session/practice involving professional, semi-professional and/or amateur footballers;*
- b. *Where the alleged perpetrator was travelling to or from a professional, semi-professional or amateur football match; and*
- c. *Where the incident in question was motivated (wholly or partly) by the victims actual or perceived association with football (e.g. the victim might have been a footballer who received racial abuse in social media or a someone who was wearing their club's jersey)."*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 10 October 2019

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

A search has been completed of the Constabulary's crime and call data for all offences and incidents recorded that are football related hate crime or incidents. The information has been extracted using the freetext search of the word's 'football' and 'football hate'.

Please note that freetext searches are by their very nature, unreliable. Therefore, there may be additional relevant offences not included within this dataset as the specific terms searched have not appeared within the crime text.

The information has been filtered to include only incidents that have occurred at football matches, as opposed to incidents that have occurred at the locus but no match was taking place or incidents involving persons watching football at other locations.

1. The total number of football-related hate crimes recorded by Suffolk Constabulary is provided in the table below:

Football season	Hate Type	Total
2015/16	Racial	2
2016/17	N/A	0
2017/18	N/A	0
2018/19	Racial	2
	Homophobic	1

2. As above



3. As above

4. The status of the victims are as follows:

Football season	Victim Status	Total
2015/16	Player	1
	Spectator	1
2018/19	Linesman	1
	Player	1
	Spectator	1

5. The status of the suspects are as follows:

Football season	Suspect Status	Total
2015/16	Spectator	2
2018/19	Not recorded	1
	Spectator	2

6. The outcome for these offences is provided below:

Football season	Outcome	Total
2015/16	Type 16 - Name Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties	1
	Type 15 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties	1
2018/19	Type 15 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties	1
	Type 16 - Name Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties	1
	Type 18 - Investigation Complete; No Suspect Identified.	1

7. None of the above offences resulted in a charged.

8. N/A

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.



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

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