



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 003441-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary and Norfolk Constabularies on 21 September 2018 which you sought access to the following information:

“Please can you provide data on (i) whether spit hoods were used by officers in your force and (ii) the numbers of times they were used on children aged 17 years or younger.

- 1. Please can you break down this data from (a) October 2017 – December 2017 and (b) 2018.*
- 2. Please provide the data broken down by: (a) age; (b) ethnicity; (c) reason for use; and (d) location of use (i.e. in police custody, in public etc)”*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 24 September 2018

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

1. Between October and December 2017 inclusive, Norfolk Constabulary used a spit guard on 22 occasions and Suffolk Constabulary used a spit guard on 12 occasions.

None of these occasions were used with a subject 17 years or younger

2. From 1 January to 24 September 2018, Norfolk Constabulary used a spit guard on 59 occasions, four of which were used on subjects that were 17 years and younger.

Suffolk Constabulary used a spit guard on 23 occasions during the same time frame, none of these were on subjects were 17 years or younger.

The age, ethnicity, reason for use and location of each spit guard use on a person aged 17 years and under, is as follows:

Location	Age	Reason for use	Ethnicity
Dwelling	11-17	Effect Arrest Protect Self	White - North European
Street - urban/town centre	11-17	Effect Arrest Prevent Escape Prevent Harm to Subject Protect Other Officers Protect Self	White - South European
Other, wasteland	11-17	Prevent Escape Prevent Harm to Subject Protect Other Officers Protect Self Remove Handcuffs	White - North European
Street - urban/town centre	11-17	Effect Arrest Prevent Escape Prevent Harm to Subject Prevent Offence Protect Other Officers Protect Public Protect Self	White - North European

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/>

Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies are 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 the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary to review their decision.

Ask Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies to look at the decision again.

If you are dissatisfied with the decision made by Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies under the Freedom of Information Act (2000), regarding access to information, you must notify the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary that you are requesting a review within 20 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 Norfolk and 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 Norfolk and 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