

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 003447-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 20 September 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *“Please provide the number of arrests made by your police force under section three of the Vagrancy Act 1824 in the financial years ranging from 2015-16, to 2017-18. I am not seeking information on the prostitution and indecency clauses of Section 3; accordingly, the police force should use the following Section 3 offences if possible:*
 - *Wandering abroad to beg or gather alms*
 - *Placing self in public place to beg*
 - *Procuring child to beg*
 - *Person other than prostitute being idle and disorderly*
 - *Causing child to beg*
 - *Collecting alms or endeavouring to procure charitable contribution by false pretence*
 - *Wandering abroad and exposing wound or deformity to obtain alms*
 - *Persistently beg*
 - *Sleeping out*

2. *Of these arrests, please provide the number of individuals who:*
 - a. *Were listed as having ‘NFA’*
 - b. *Were subsequently charged with an offence*
 - c. *Were issued a fine*
 - d. *Please provide the amount of each fine given”*

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.

A search has been completed of the Constabulary’s crime system for all offences recorded under the vagrancy Act for the 2015/16 – 2017/18 calendar years.

Please note that arrest data has not been provided due to the fact that the Vagrancy Act or begging is not listed as an arrest reason.

The table below includes the crime classification and the outcome, broken down by financial year.



HO Classification	Outcome	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Vagrancy Act 1824 - Being on enclosed premises for an unlawful purpose	Type 1 - Charged/Summoned/Postal Requisition	1	1	
	Type 10 - Formal Action Against Offender is not in the Public Interest (Police)		1	
	Type 15 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties		3	6
	Type 21 - Not in the public interest - police decision.			1
Vagrancy Act 1824 - Collecting alms or endeavouring to procure charitable contributions by fraudulent pretence	Type 8 - Community resolution (Crime)	1		
Vagrancy Act 1824 , Begging, gathering alms or causing or procuring any child so to do	Type 1 - Charged/Summoned/Postal Requisition	1	3	
	Type 10 - Formal Action Against Offender is not in the Public Interest (Police)			1
	Type 15 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties			2
	Type 16 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties			1
	Type 18 - Investigation Complete; No Suspect Identified.	1	2	1
	Type 8 - Community resolution (Crime)		1	
	Not Recorded		1	
Grand Total		4	12	12

The total number of offences recorded where the suspect was recorded to have no fixed abode, is provided in the table below:

Offence	Outcome	16/17	17/18
Vagrancy Act 1824 - Being on enclosed premises for an unlawful purpose	Type 15 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties Action		1
Vagrancy Act 1824 , Begging, gathering alms or causing or procuring any child so to do	Type 1 - Charged/Summoned/Postal Requisition	1	

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 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 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