



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 003500-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 25 September 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"How many reports of crimes, abuse, physical, verbal or otherwise, can be linked to anti-Semitism or quote anti-Semitism as a factor, in each calendar year since 2010?"*
2. *How many reports of crimes, abuse, physical, verbal or otherwise, can be linked to Islamaphobia or quote Islamaphobia as a factor, in each calendar year since 2010?"*
3. *How many reports of crimes, abuse, physical, verbal or otherwise, can be linked to racism or quote racism as a factor, in each calendar year since 2010?"*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 4 October 2018

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

Historically, the Constabulary's legacy crime system records hate crime under the classification 'racial or religious' marker. There is no means to easily extract the number of those crimes that relate specifically to anti-Semitism or Islamaphobia. Although the current crime system, including data from 19 October 2015, does have the means to filter the data by religion, there are still occasions where the offence is recorded as 'Hate-Racial' and the religion is not specified within the search fields.

In order to ensure an accurate response is provided with regards to this request, a manually review will be required of each religious hate crime, where the religion has not been specified. There are over 4000 hate crimes recorded that would need to be reviewed, which the Constabulary anticipates would take in excess of 260 hours.

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 hate offences recorded for the time frame 1 January 2010 – 31 August 2018. As a result in a change in crime recording system in October 2015, the information has been extracted using two separate search criterion. Data from 19 October 2015 onwards have been extracted based on all those offences with a Jewish, Muslim and Racial tag. Whereas data prior to 19 October 2015, was extracted based on those offences recorded with a 'racial or religious' marker.

The information in the table below confirms the total number of racial hate offences recorded, including the number that specifically have a marker of 'Jewish' or 'Muslim' for data from October 2015 onwards.

Hate Strand	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Racist marker	560	471	403	366	444	310			
Religious marker	22	35	23	31	31	22			
Religion - Jewish							2	10	3
Religion - Muslim							12	31	25
Religion - Racial						73	512	634	436



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*

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