



## Freedom of Information Request Reference N<sup>o</sup>: FOI 003561/19

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies on the 3 October 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *“How many reported incidents of theft of tools (either hand tools, power tools or associated items) have you received over the last three years?”*
2. *How many of these thefts were reported from the following places during these timeframes?*
  - *A private residence*
  - *A vehicle*
  - *A worksite or commercial premises*
  - *Other*
3. *How many of these reports of theft resulted in the tools being returned to the victim?*
4. *What is the recorded (or estimated) overall value of tools stolen over the last three years?”*

## Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 9 October 2019

Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies have considered your request and our response is below:-

Research has been undertaken of recorded crimes of theft of tools for the time frame specified. The Constabularies are unable to confirm the value of tools recorded as such detail is a non-mandatory recording requirement. Although there is a specific section of the crime report for property value to be recorded, it is not always completed but could be recorded in other locations, such as a persons witness statement.

Based on 5 minutes per crime this would exceed the appropriate limit for dealing with a Freedom of Information request, in terms of costs, and therefore Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act applies.

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. The Constabularies do not hold, for the purposes of FOIA, all of 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, exceeding 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 Constabularies as £450 and specifies that this sum equates to 18 hours work per force at a standard rate of £25 per hour. This equates to 36 hours of work, or £900, for joint responses.

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 limit imposed on Freedom of Information requests.

Although excess cost removes Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relevant to your request, which was 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.

Year	Total Tool Thefts	Total with a recorded value	Value* (where recorded)
<b>NORFOLK</b>			
2017	570	327	£169,030
2018	693	384	£221,207
2019	439	257	£128,582
<b>SUFFOLK</b>			
2017	964	795	£455,785
2018	942	730	£315,931
2019	503	393	£208,695

***\* Information regarding property values is collected as a part of a criminal investigation. The values specified are only meant as an approximate guide and are for Police purposes only.***

The information provided below confirms the offence type, which identifies the type of property.

<b>Norfolk Constabulary</b>			
Offence Category	2017	2018	2019
Aggravated Vehicle Taking	1		
Arson		1	
Bicycle Theft		1	1
Burglary - Business And Community	70	131	98

Burglary - Residential	185	171	114
Burglary In A Dwelling	4		
Burglary Non-Dwelling	55		
Criminal Damage			3
Interfering With A Motor Vehicle	2		
Misc Crimes Against Society	1		
Other Theft	69	87	67
Robbery Of Business Property			1
Robbery Of Personal Property		3	
Shoplifting	31	42	26
Theft From A Vehicle	141	244	110
Theft From The Person	1		1
Theft Or Unauth Taking Of A Motor Veh	10	13	18

<b>Suffolk Constabulary</b>			
<b>Offence Category</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Arson	1	1	
Burglary - Business And Community	98	127	81
Burglary - Residential	235	310	183
Burglary In A Dwelling	5		
Burglary Non-Dwelling	102		
Criminal Damage	3	2	
Misc Crimes Against Society		1	
Other Theft	75	77	36
Robbery Of Business Property		1	
Robbery Of Personal Property		3	
Shoplifting	16	45	39
Theft From A Vehicle	420	355	153
Theft Or Unauth Taking Of A Motor Veh	9	20	11

The number of thefts that have a 'stolen/recovered' status is provided below, noting that this field is also non-mandatory.

<b>Stolen / Recovered</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Norfolk Constabulary	16	25	12
Suffolk Constabulary	29	30	15

***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.***

This response will be published on the Constabularies web-site under the Freedom of Information pages:-

<https://www.norfolk.police.uk/about-us/our-data/disclosure-log>

<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/services/freedom-information/disclosure-logs>

Should you have any further queries concerning this request, please contact Amanda Gibson, 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 40 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  
Norfolk Constabulary  
Operations and Communications Centre  
Jubilee House  
Falconers Chase  
Wymondham  
Norfolk NR18 0WW  
OR  
Email: [freedomofinformation@norfolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@norfolk.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](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