



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

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 003622-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 7 October 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *“How many Detective constables have been recruited in the last 15 years?
 - a. How many have been weeded out at interview stage?
 - b. How many have failed the NIE exam?
 - c. What is the current retention rate of detectives in CID or safeguarding.”*
2. *How many of those have been part of the detective entry scheme?
 - a. How many have been weeded out at interview stage?
 - b. How many have failed the NIE exam?
 - c. What is the current retention rate of DE in CID or safeguarding.”*
3. *How many detectives are currently employed by Suffolk constabulary?*
4. *What is the current deficit of detectives, if any?”*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 15 October 2019

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

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.

In relation to the number of Detectives who have been recruited in the last 15 years, this data is not held in a central location suitable for bulk data extraction. The current system will allow some data to be extracted from 1 April 2015, which confirms there have been 170 instances of an officer changing from a non-detective to a detective post however, this is not a reliable indicator

because a non-qualified officer may move to a detective post and so would not show in these figures.

The only way to provide an accurate response to this part of the request would be to manually review all HR records for police officer both current and those who have left the Constabulary, to establish the number of occasions a DC has been recruited.

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.

1. B. Since 2005, a total of 17 have failed the NIE exam, with 11 of them going on to re-sit and pass the exam.

C. The Constabulary does not hold data relating to the retention rate of detectives in CID or safeguarding.

2. A total of 16 officers have joined through direct entry detective scheme.

A. 8 applicants for the direct entry have failed at the DC assessment centre, which included an interview element. This only covers the campaign and recruitment in 2017 which was the first direct entry route. The current process has not yet been completed so no data available.

B. The Constabulary is unable to confirm the number who have failed the NIE exam as the records do not differentiate between those who entered through DE process compared to those who were existing officers taking exam

C. No direct entry DCs have resigned since starting the programme in 2017.



3. As at 1 October 2019, there were 248 officers (238.5 FTE) in a detective post.

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