



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

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 003639-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 8 October 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

“All information requested is for the time period of 1st January-31st December 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and year to date 2019.

- 1. Do you record allegations of employee theft (definition under the Theft Act)?*
- 2. Do you record allegations of employee fraud (definition under the Fraud Act)?*

The answers to 1 and 2 may be just an incident log. What are the recorded log / incident volumes (number of logs.....NOT CRIME NUMBERS)for the years of:

- 3. What are the recorded crime numbers for employee theft (definition under the Theft Act)? (NOT TO INCLUDE INCIDENT LOGS NOT ALLOCATED A CRIME NUMBER)*
- 4. What are the recorded crime numbers for employee fraud (definition under the Fraud Act)? (NOT TO INCLUDE INCIDENT LOGS NOT ALLOCATED A CRIME NUMBER)*
- 5. How many people were arrested for employee theft (definition under the Theft Act)?*
- 6. How many people were arrested for employee fraud (definition under the Fraud Act)?*
- 7. A breakdown of sentences for each individual of employee theft: fine, conditional discharge, community service order, suspended custodial sentence, custodial sentence.*
- 8. A breakdown of sentences for each individual of employee fraud: fine, conditional discharge, community service order, suspended custodial sentence, custodial sentence.*
- 9. Highest, lowest & average value of employee theft?*
- 10. Highest, lowest & average value of employee fraud?*
- 11. Number of reports where insufficient evidence to prosecute for employee theft.*
- 12. Number of reports where insufficient evidence to prosecute for employee fraud.*
- 13. Number of reports where ‘not in the public interest to prosecute’ for employee theft.*
- 14. Number of reports where ‘not in the public interest to prosecute’ for employee fraud.*



15. *Which department is responsible for investigating allegations of employee theft and employee fraud.*

16. *Number of females arrested for employee theft.*

17. *Number of females arrested for employee fraud.*

18. *Number of males arrested for employee fraud*

19. *Number of males arrested for employee fraud.”*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 16 October 2019

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

The Constabulary records incidents of fraud and theft on the call system and offence data is recorded within the crime system.

The incident and offence categories do not differentiate the data to identify whether fraud allegations were committed by an employee or otherwise. For the time scale requested, there were 410 fraud offences, each would need to be reviewed to establish the number that relate to fraud by an employee. For the time scale requested to determine the relevant offences would take in excess of 20 hours.

Additionally, the values of the theft and fraud offences is a non-mandatory field and it is not always completed. Presuming the fraud offences could be identified, the Constabulary would be required to review those and the theft by employee offences to extract data concerning the value of the fraud or theft offence. This data could be held in the crime, statements or other associated documentation and would take well in excess of 18 hours to ensure the full dataset is extracted and accurate information provided.

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.

The information provided relates to Theft by Employee offences recorded by the Constabulary for the time frame specified.

The table provided below confirms the total number of offences recorded, by outcome and year.

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
1) Charged/Summoned	18				
2) Caution – youths	1				
3) Caution – adults	6				
8) Community Resolution	18				
Cautioned By Police	4				
Charged And Bailed	4				
Not Recorded			1	3	21
To Be Taken Into Consideration	1				
Type 1 - Charged/Summoned/Postal Requisition	7	27	16	13	5
Type 10 - Formal Action Against Offender is not in the Public Interest (Police)	1	4	2	1	1
Type 14 - Evidential Difficulties Victim Based- Suspect Not Identified	1	2	2	3	
Type 15 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties	13	24	35	34	16



Type 16 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties	2	11	13	18	9
Type 18 - Investigation Complete; No Suspect Identified.	8	20	45	11	6
Type 20 - Further action resulting from the crime report will be undertaken by another body or agency		4	1		
Type 21 - Not in the public interest - police decision.		2	1		
Type 3 - Caution Adult	1	15	13	10	3
Type 3A - Caution Adult - alternate offence		1			
Type 4 - TIC - Taken into Consideration					1
Type 5 - Offender has died			1		
Type 8 - Community resolution (Crime)	8	13	7	3	3
Type 9 - Prosecution Not In the Public Interest (CPS)	2				
Grand Total	95	123	137	96	65

The table provided below confirms the number of persons arrested for the offence of Theft by Employee, provided by gender and year.

Year	Female	Male	Not Recorded
2015	10	2	1
2016	10	25	
2017	7	12	
2018	5	15	
2019	1	4	
Total	33	58	1

Further information concerning fraud offences can be found via the link below:

<http://www.suffolk.police.uk/advice/personal-safety/fraud>

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.



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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