



Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 003752-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 11 October 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"Please can you tell me how many under 18s were arrested by your officers in the calendar years:*
 - a. 2014
 - b. 2015
 - c. 2016
 - d. 2017
 - e. 2018 to date

2. *Please can you breakdown the figures in the answer to Q1a-e by the:*
 - i. Age
 - ii. Gender
 - iii. Ethnicity
 - iv. Crime

3. *If possible within the cost limit could you please indicate the outcomes of the arrests in the answer for Q1a-e eg. Charged, NCA, bail etc"*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 17 October 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 arrests recorded where the individual was aged under 18 at the time of arrest. Please note that the Constabulary is no longer able to extract bulk data from the legacy custody system NSPIS, we have therefore supplied information from 19 October 2015, when the current crime and custody system was implemented.

The table provided on the attached spreadsheet confirms the total number of arrests recorded from 19 October 2015 – 30 September 2018. The data has been provided by suspect age, gender, ethnicity, offence category and arrest outcome.

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.

In addition to the above the Suffolk Constabulary can **neither confirm nor deny** that it holds any additional information as the duty in s1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply, by virtue of the following exemptions:

Section 23(5) – Security Bodies

Section 24(2) – National Security

Section 30(3) – Investigations

Section 31(3) – Law Enforcement

Overall harm for the NCND

Disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) is considered to be a release to the world, as once the information has been published on the Disclosure Log pages of the Constabulary's external website, the Constabulary has no control over access to that information. Whilst not questioning an applicant's motive for requesting information, it could be of use to persons who are involved in criminal activity, including terrorism related activity.

Although there is a call for openness and transparency, this needs to be balanced against the harm in disclosure of the requested information. The Police Service has a clear responsibility to prevent and detect crime and disorder and to protect the communities we serve.

The prevention and detection of crime is the foundation upon which policing is built and the threat from terrorism cannot be ignored. It is generally recognised in this current environment that the international security landscape is increasingly complex and unpredictable. The current UK threat level from international terrorism, based on intelligence, is assessed as 'severe' which means that a terrorist attack is highly likely. Please see below:-

<https://www.mi5.gov.uk/threat-levels>

To confirm or deny whether any other relevant information is held would undermine individual forces policing capabilities which consequently would be detrimental to their ability to deal with the on-going terrorist threat we face. In addition, the disclosure of information could suggest the level of resourcing a force has.

Public Interest Test



Factors favouring confirmation or denial for S24

Confirming or denying whether any other information is held would enhance public debate about the effectiveness of Suffolk Constabulary, in combating terrorist activity, and international criminal activity against our national security. A better informed public can therefore take steps to protect themselves.

Factors against confirmation or denial for S24

Confirming or denying whether any other information is held would render security measures less effective and would provide useful intelligence to individuals who are involved in terrorist activity. This would lead to the compromise of ongoing or future operations to protect the security or infrastructure of the UK and increase the risk of harm to the public.

Factors favouring confirmation or denial for S30

There is a public interest in the transparency of policing operations and providing assurance that Suffolk Constabulary is appropriately and effectively dealing with crime. Confirming or denying whether any other information is held would allow the public to make informed decisions about these matters.

Factors against confirmation or denial for S30

Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of policing operations and providing assurance that Suffolk Constabulary is appropriately and effectively dealing with crime, there is a strong public interest in safeguarding the integrity of police investigations and operations and in maintaining confidence in the Police Service. Confirmation or denial that any information is held, relevant to your request, would undermine any investigative process and compromise the integrity of any operations.

Factors favouring confirmation or denial for S31

Confirming or denying whether any other information is held, would give an indication where public funds are being utilised and increase Police openness and transparency.

Factors against confirmation or denial for S31

By confirming or denying whether any other information is held would mean that law enforcement tactics would be compromised and this would hinder the prevention and detection of crime. Confirming whether any other information is held could give an indication of force capabilities.



Where this information is requested from other force areas, this would give an indication of capabilities on a national basis.

Balance Test

The Police Service is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. The security of the country is of paramount importance and Suffolk Constabulary will not divulge whether information is or is not held if to do so would place the safety of an individual at risk, compromise law enforcement or undermine National Security.

Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of policing operations and providing assurance that the Constabulary is appropriately and effectively engaging with the threat from terrorists and criminals, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding both national security and the integrity of police investigations and operations in this highly sensitive area.

As much as there is a public interest in knowing that policing activity is appropriate and balanced, in matters of national security, this will be overridden in exceptional circumstances. Police force's capabilities of combating terrorism are sensitive issues of intelligence value to the terrorist and therefore it is our opinion that for these reasons the balancing test for confirming or not whether any other information is held, is not made out.

This should not be taken as necessarily indicating that any information that would meet your request does or does not exist.

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