

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 003754-18

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. *“How many people have been arrested with possession (just possession, not possession with intent to supply) of cannabis over the past 10 calendar years? - figure to be broken down by year*
2. *How many people were charged with possession of cannabis?*
3. *How many people were cautioned with possession of cannabis?”*

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 custody data for all arrests made in relation to the possession of cannabis. Arrest data does not differentiate between drug type and consequently, we have cross referenced all ‘Possession of Class B’ arrests with crime data to establish those that related to cannabis.

Please note that as a result of a change in crime and custody recording system during October 2015, arrest data is only available for bulk data extraction from 19 October 2015 onwards.

The table provided below confirms the total number of arrests made in relation to cannabis possession, by year and outcome.

Please note that some of these offences will be under investigation.

Outcome	2015	2016	2017	2018
Type 1 - Charged/Summoned/Postal Requisition	15	71	83	41
Type 1A - Charged/Summons - alternate offence.			2	
Type 2 - Caution Youth	1	2	5	2
Type 3 - Caution Adult	6	30	27	21
Type 4 - TIC - Taken into Consideration				1



Type 6 - Penalty notice for disorder	1	2	1	
Type 7 - Cannabis/Khat Warning	1	9	22	15
Type 10 - Formal Action Against Offender is not in the Public Interest (Police)	1	6		1
Type 12 - Named Suspect Identified But Is Too Ill To Prosecute			1	
Type 15 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties	1	4	3	5
Type 16 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties		2		
Type 18 - Investigation Complete; No Suspect Identified				1
Type 20 - Further action resulting from the crime report will be undertaken by another body agency		2	1	1
Type 21 - Further investigation not in the public interest - police decision.			1	
Not Recorded		3	3	16
Total	26	131	149	104

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