



## **Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 003755-18**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 12 October 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *“How many reports of domestic abuse has your force responded to since January 1, 2013? I mean any incident reported on your 101, 999 and other reporting methods such as online. It is fine to include incidents responded by chance while on routine patrol.*
2. *How many victims did not support prosecution?*
3. *In how many cases did you seek to press charges despite the fact the victim did not support further action?*

*Please break the data down year-by-year.”*

### **Response to your Request**

The response provided below is correct as of 29 October 2018

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

Information concerning domestic violence incidents and crimes are recorded on the call and crime systems. There were a total of 22,432 domestic violence incidents reported to the Constabulary where a call log (CAD) was created for the 2013 – 2018 calendar years. The origin of the CAD is provided in the table at the end of this response. Please note that Call data is only available from 29 November 2013 onwards as a result in a change in call handling system at this time.

To establish whether a victim did not support prosecution and the number of charges that were brought despite the victim not supporting a prosecution, would require a manual review of all crimes that were subsequently recorded, which had an outcome of ‘charge’.

Over 600 people per year are charged with a domestic related offence, each would need to be manually reviewed to establish the number where the victim did not support the prosecution. At a reserved search of 4 minutes per offence, it would take in excess of 40 hours to extract the information requested.

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 total number of incidents recorded by the Constabulary concerning domestic abuse, including the origin of the CAD, is as follows:

Origin of CAD	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
999	370	2817	2969	3437	3075	2536
ABNORMAL	1	1	1			
ALARM	1	1	1	2	3	4
AMB	6	47	59	40	44	25
CAMBS		24	33	30	41	37
CCTV	1	5	7	7	1	
EMAIL	4	16	15	24	39	33
ESSEX		24	21	19	17	18
FAX		1		1		
FIRE			1			



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FOUND	2	10	3	5	10	9
ONLINE					3	25
OTHER	8	67	37	40	2	
PARTNER					12	12
POL/OTH	6	44	37	36	6	
SUFFK		4				
TEL/OTHER	162	1487	1256	1114	226	
TELEPHONE					749	906
VISIT	7	77	80	50	39	42
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>4625</b>	<b>4520</b>	<b>4805</b>	<b>4267</b>	<b>3647</b>

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](mailto: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](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