



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 003779-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 15 October 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

“Please detail how many homeless people have been the victim of violent crime within the force area since 2014. Please provide the data in an annualised format and break the figures down by offence.”

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 24 October 2018

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

Suffolk Constabulary changed crime recording system during October 2015. Crime data held within the legacy crime system does not include address details in a searchable format and we would need to review all offences to establish whether the victim was NFA or no fixed abode.

Considering there are thousands of crimes recorded in any one year, it would be a mammoth task to try and extract relevant data to answer the FOI request.

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.

A search has been completed of the Constabulary's crime system for all violence against the person offences recorded where the victim has no fixed abode, for the time frame 19 October 2015 – 22 October 2018. The table provided below confirms the total number of offences recorded by offence and financial year.

Offence Title	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19
Arrange or facilitate travel of another person with a view to exploitation			2	
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (ABH)	7	25	35	24
Assault without Injury - Common assault and battery	7	15	33	31
Assault without injury on a constable (Police Act offence)	2	1		
Attempted - Assault without injury on a constable (Police Act offence)		1		
Attempted - Wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm (Indictable)			3	1
Cruelty to Children/Young Persons - Cruelty to and neglect of children		1		
Disclose private sexual photographs and films with intent to cause distress				2
Engage in controlling/coercive behaviour in an intimate / family relationship.			2	2
GBH serious wound without intent (s20)		5	2	
Harassment - without violence (course of conduct)		3	5	1
Hold person in slavery or servitude			1	1
Kidnapping - False imprisonment (Indictable)		2		
Kidnapping - Kidnapping (Indictable)			2	1
Minor wound without intent (s20)		6	10	3
Owner / person in charge of a dog dangerously out of control - no injury				1
Racially or religiously aggravated wounding or grievous bodily harm	1			
Sending letters etc with intent to cause distress or anxiety, Malicious Communications Act 1988	1	3	6	2
Threats to kill				1
Wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm (Indictable)	3	2	7	4
Grand Total	21	64	108	74



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