



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

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 003873-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 29 October 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"Please may I have a breakdown in numbers of catalytic converter thefts for the last five years?"*

A year on year breakdown of the number reported would be ideal.

2. *How many arrests have been made (year on year, for the last five years) for catalytic converter theft/ the damage associated with the crime?*
3. *How many of the above have led to charges and/ or prosecutions?*
4. *Has one area been more prolific/ affected by this type of theft than another across your patch?*
5. *Any generic advice on the avoidance of catalytic converter theft would be appreciated."*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 14 November 2019

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

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.

In relation to Question 2 of your request, the number of arrests is not linked to the data we have retrieved for catalytic converter thefts, and therefore to retrieve this would require us to manually review all catalytic converter theft cases. Since 2014, there have a total of 520 cases and at 5

minutes per search this would take in the region of 43 hours to retrieve, way exceeding the statutory time restraints of the FOI Act.

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 below table provides a yearly breakdown of the numbers of catalytic converter thefts in the last 5 years:

Year	Number of thefts
2014	199
2015	76
2016	145
2017	59
2018	21
2019	20

Zero cases with an outcome of Charged/Summons result

The location of these offences is as follows:

Location	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
East Suffolk	35	3	4	18	5	3
Ipswich	17	2	-	-	-	-
South Suffolk	-	13	52	13	10	6
West Suffolk	109	38	88	28	6	11

N/a	38	20	1	-	-	-
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The below weblinks will direct you to advice Suffolk Constabulary provide on catalytic converter theft:

<http://www.suffolk.police.uk/sites/suffolk/files/catalyticconvertertheft1.pdf>

<http://www.suffolk.police.uk/advice/roads-and-vehicles/tool-smart>

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