



SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

REQUEST NUMBER: FOI Request 003880-17

REQUEST DETAILS:

"Please could you provide me with some information about the number of road accidents reported on the A14 between junctions 56 and 57?

Could I have the figures broken down monthly for each of the past 24 months, up until the latest month for which figures are available (ideally January 2017).

For each month could you tell me:

- How many reports of road accidents on the A14 between junctions 56 and 57 were made to Suffolk police? – Could you please provide a breakdown of these, depending on what categories Suffolk police uses to describe road accidents – e.g. breakdown, single vehicle RTC, two vehicle RTC etc etc.*
- How many road accidents closed one lane on the A14 between junctions 56 and 57?*
- How many road accidents closed more than one lane of the A14 between junctions 56 and 57?*
- How many road accidents resulted in the total closure of the A14 between junctions 56 and 57?"*

RESPONSE:

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

This response is correct as of 24 February 2017

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.



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The Constabulary would not be able to establish the total number of road accidents and breakdowns that have occurred on the A14 at this specific location without manually reviewing all CADs for the Ipswich area. The Constabulary receive many calls relating to safety concerns on the roads and to review each one would take us well over the allotted 18 hours.

In addition, whether a road has been closed or not for any reason would only be recorded within the CAD and is not centrally recorded.

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 only information that is centrally recorded relates to injury RTCs, which we have provided on the attached however this does not provide details of road closures.