



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 003904-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 23 October 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

“For the purposes of this request, a classic car is defined as a car aged 30 years or more, so cars registered in or before 1988.

- 1. How many classic cars have been reported stolen to your police force so far in 2018?*
- 2. How many classic cars were reported stolen to your police force between 2017 and 2009? Please provide a year-by-year breakdown.*
- 3. How many stolen cars (of any age) has your police force recovered so far this year, and between 2017 and 2009? Please provide a year-by-year breakdown.*
- 4. What was the total number of cars, of all ages, reported stolen to your police force in 2018 (to date), and from 2017 to 2009? Please provide a year-by-year breakdown.”*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of xxx 2018

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

The Constabulary is unable to confirm the number of classic cars stolen within the Suffolk area as the information is not recorded in this manner. Whereas we can obtain where recorded, the make and model of vehicles, there is no specific field to identify those that are considered classic. Although we can undertake a freetext word for all theft of motor vehicle offences, that contain the word 'classic', this would not accurately represent the data held and would invariably not include all relevant offences.

Considering there are a total of 5,311 theft of vehicle related offences for the time frame requested, it would take well in excess of 350 hours to extract the information requested concerning classic car theft.

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 information provided in the table below confirms the total number of theft or motor vehicle offences recorded by the Constabulary for the years requested, including the full offence title and whether the vehicle was recovered or not. Please note that this is not always completed and for those occasions, the column ‘Unknown’ is relevant.

Status	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Aggravated vehicle taking										
RECOVERED							5	11	32	25
STOLEN							2	6	3	4
Unknown	124	117	107	78	76	89	54	42	23	17
Aggravated vehicle taking where the only aggravating factor is criminal damage of £5000 or under										
RECOVERED								5	7	7
STOLEN								3	2	3
Unknown							2	9	11	9
Theft of a motor vehicle										



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RECOVERED	212	182	142	98	117	71	94	84	117	97
STOLEN							50	239	244	255
Unknown	347	313	347	268	269	202	193	41	46	54
Unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle (does not include 'driving or being carried knowing motor vehicle has been taken')										
RECOVERED							9	43	47	41
STOLEN							3	17	10	14
Unknown							10	41	76	45
Grand Total	683	612	596	444	462	362	422	541	618	571

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