



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

## **Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 003937-19**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 31 October 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

*"I would like to request information on both sexual assault and rape cases that involved BDSM sexual activity as context.*

*Specifically, I would like to request information on*

- 1. sexual assault cases brought forward to the police authority with the words either or including BDSM / bondage/ discipline/ dominance/ submission/ sadism/ masochism/ choking/ kinky/ strangling/ sexual relations/ sex/ consent in the offence report for the calendar years 2008-2018*
- 2. rape cases brought forward to the authority with the words either or including BDSM/ bondage/ discipline/ dominance/submission/ sadism/ masochism/ choking/ kinky/ strangling/ sexual relations/ sex/ consent in the offence report for the calendar years from 2008-2018."*

## **Response to your Request**

The response provided below is correct as of 7 November 2019

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

A freetext search has been completed of the Constabulary's crime system for all offences of Sexual Assault and Rape recorded, where one of more of the following words appears in the crime text: BDSM/ bondage/ discipline/ dominance/submission/ sadism/ masochism/ choking/ kinky/ strangling/ sexual relations/ sex/ consent.

As a result of a change in crime recording system during October 2015, the data has been retrieved in slightly different ways as a result of differences in crime recording across the two systems. The data is not therefore comparable for the offences prior and post October 2015.

Freetext searches are by their very nature unreliable, consequently there may be additional relevant offences not included within the return because the specific words were not mentioned in the respective freetext or crime MO.

It is important to note that the information supplied does not identify in what context these words appear and no assumptions should be made as to their nature.



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The information supplied relates to sexual assaults and rape offences only and excludes all other sexual offence categories.

Offence / Keyword	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Rape</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>472</b>
Bondage		1									
Consent								30	80	112	114
Sex	129	143	137	129	119	131	172	291	210	289	356
Sexual Relations								1	7	2	1
Strangling							1			1	1
<b>Sexual Assault</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>363</b>
Choking										1	
Consent	22	19	10	16	16	12	14	29	34	47	50
Sex	69	73	79	53	68	70	92	202	224	305	313
Sexual Relations										1	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>835</b>

*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.



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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](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