

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 004013-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 27 October 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

“For the 2017/18 financial year:

- 1) Please state the number of offences recorded of sexting, that is offences under Section 1 of the Protection of Children Act 1978 or Section 160 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, recorded by your force.*
- 2) Please state the number of offences recorded of sexting, where the offender was under the age of 18, recorded.*
- 3) Please break the number of offenders under the age of the 18 down by the number of offenders of each age.*
- 4) Please state the number of victims of sexting offences, that is, victims of offences under Section 1 of the Protection of Children Act 1978 or Section 160 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988.*
- 5) Please break the number of victims down by the number of victims of each age recorded“*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 30 October 2018

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

There are no specific offence flags or marker to highlight those offences that specifically relate to sexting. Sexting crimes are recorded under Home Office recording codes 86/10 and 86/02, which relate to the following offences:

- Attempted - Possession of an indecent or pseudo indecent photo of a child
- Attempted - Take or to make or to distribute indecent photographs or pseudo- photographs, of children
- Possession of an indecent or pseudo indecent photo of a child
- Take or to make or to distribute indecent photographs or pseudo- photographs, of children

- 1) The information has been reviewed and the information provided only relates to those offences where an indecent photograph has been distributed via text or other associated platform. The information will exclude any offences that does not have this detail within the initial MO, or those that relate to viewing or making said photographs.

The total number of offences located for the 2017/18 financial year, based on the above search parameters, was 245.

- 2) Of those 245 reports, 177 related to offenders under the age of 18.
- 3) The age of those persons referred above is as follows: Please note that to reduce the likelihood of a person being identified, we have provided the data for persons aged 11 and under as a total figure.

Age	Total
11 and under	9
12	15
13	38
14	37
15	42
16	25
17	11
Grand Total	177

- 4) The total number of victims of these offences was 68.
- 5) The age of the victims are as follows:

Age	Total
11 and under	8
12 - 14	29
15 - 17	25
18 - 30	3
Not recorded	3
Grand Total	68

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