



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

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 004030-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 14 November 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

"I am requesting the following information, broken up for the years of 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 (up to November 6, 2019):

- 1. How many people received non-molestation orders? Out of them how many were breached?*
- 2. How many people received restraining orders? Out of them how many were breached?*
- 3. Out of the people who breached non-molestation orders and/or restraining orders in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 to date, how many people were summoned to court (broken down into each year)? Out of that number how many people were dealt with by criminal courts?*
- 4. Out of the people who breached non-molestation orders and/or restraining orders in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 to date, how many people received a jail sentence (broken down into each year)? How many days of jail time were these offenders ordered to serve (broken down into each year)?*
- 5. Out of the people who breached non-molestation orders and/or restraining orders in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 to date, how many people received a suspended jail sentence (broken down into each year)? How many days of suspended jail time were these people ordered to comply with (broken down into each year)?*
- 6. Out of the people who breached non-molestation orders and/or restraining orders in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 to date, how many people received a community service order (broken down into each year)? How many hours of community service were people ordered to do each year?*
- 7. Out of the people who breached non-molestation orders and/or restraining orders in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 to date, how many people received a fine (broken down into each year)? How much were people fined each year?*

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.

Extensive research would be required in order to identify the number of non-molestation orders and restraining orders that have been issued during the years requested. These are issued by a court and the Constabulary does not hold statistical information regarding court outcomes. Therefore, the Constabulary would need to undertake a manual search of police systems, to see what information is held, this would also involve checking emails and court registers.

This would be an enormous task which would significantly exceed the appropriate limit for dealing with a Freedom of Information request, in terms of costs, and therefore Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 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 below tables provide the number of offences recorded in our crime recording system for breach of restraining order and/or non-molestation order, and in addition where the outcome indicates that the suspect was charged or summonsed to Court:

Suffolk – Offences recorded	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (part)
Attempted Breach of a restraining order	0	0	1	0	0	0
Breach of non-molestation order	0	13	47	33	54	65
Breach of a restraining order	64	82	192	212	151	149



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Suffolk - Charged/Summons	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (part)
Attempted Breach of a restraining order	0	0	1	0	0	0
Breach of non-molestation order	0	10	26	11	20	24
Breach of a restraining order	54	57	119	115	87	80

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