



Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 004072-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies on 2 November 2018 which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"The number of people who have been arrested or questioned between October 2015 and October 2018 for the practice known as catfishing - for example stealing someone's identity online or purporting to be someone else they're not online in order to lure someone into a relationship by adopting a fictional online persona.*
2. *The number of people who have been charged between October 2015 and October 2018 for the practice known as catfishing - for example stealing someone's identity online or purporting to be someone else they're not online in order to lure someone into a relationship by adopting a fictional online persona.*
3. *The number of reports or allegations you have received between October 2015 to October 2018 from people claiming to be victims of the practice known as catfishing - for example someone who's had their photos or identity stolen by someone attempting to lure a third party into a relationship by adopting a fictional online persona."*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 7 November 2018

Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies have considered your request for information and the response is below.

There are no direct laws regarding incidents of Catfishing, therefore we could not search any particular offence classifications. To assist, we have completed a free text search using the words 'catfish', 'cat fishing', 'cat fish' and 'catfishing'.

There were no offences located that contained any of these phrases.

There were 3 incidents for Suffolk and 1 for Norfolk located with one of the phrases within the incident text.

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/>

Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies are 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 the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary to review their decision.

Ask Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies to look at the decision again.

If you are dissatisfied with the decision made by Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies under the Freedom of Information Act (2000), regarding access to information, you must notify the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary that you are requesting a review within 20 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 Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary will aim to respond to your request for us to look at our decision again within 40 working days of receipt of your request for an internal review.

The Information Commissioner.

After lodging a request for a review with Norfolk and 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