



**Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 004096-18**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 6 November 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

*“Please provide the following information on domestic violence at Christmas in Suffolk:*

*Any report of incidents or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence, abuse, stalking and harassment between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members*

*Time frame: The 48hrs between 12pm on Christmas Eve and 12pm on Boxing Day 2017*

*Please provide:*

*Total reports of each offence type*

*Total number of arrests made*

*Total number of male victims*

*Total number of female victims*

*Total number of male offenders*

*Total number of female offenders*

*Age of youngest victim*

*Age of oldest victim”*

**Response to your Request**

The response provided below is correct as of 12 November 2018

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

The Constabulary is unable to identify the total number of incidents that have occurred between partners or family members. Such data may be held within the call record itself however, we would be required to review all incidents to establish those that are relevant to this request. Likewise, the incident data is not directly linked to the crime and custody data and therefore, we would have to manually cross reference this data to extract the remaining information relevant to the request.

If we consider crime data alone, information concerning the relationship status between involved parties is not always recorded. We could consider those offences of a domestic nature, but this will not necessarily locate all relevant offences. Additionally, we cannot establish in all cases the



timing of the offence as this is not a mandatory field and therefore is not always completed. In order to extract crime data relevant to the request, the Constabulary would be required to review all relevant offence titles to establish the relationship between suspect and victim and the timing of the offence.

The Constabulary would be required to manually review a large number of incident and crime records, which would well exceed the time constraints of the Act.

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.

A search has been completed of the Constabulary's crime system for all violence against the person offences that have a domestic abuse flag or that contain a domestic abuse investigation as an included offence. The data is for the full days of Christmas Eve – Boxing day as we cannot differentiate between times for all of the offences recorded.

- The Constabulary located 51 relevant offences, as follows:

<b>Offence</b>	<b>24/12/2017</b>	<b>25/12/2017</b>	<b>26/12/2017</b>
Stalking And Harassment	1	1	2
Violence With Injury	13	5	7
Violence Without Injury	13	4	5
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>

- A total of 20 offences has a linked custody record
- There were a total of 24 male victims
- There were a total of 27 female victims
- There were a total of 33 male offenders
- There were a total of 14 female offenders
- The youngest victim was 16
- The oldest victim was 83

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](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