



SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

REQUEST NUMBER: FOI Request 004119-17

REQUEST DETAILS:

Please provide the following information relating to children aged under 16 in your force area:

- 1. Total number of instances children were reported missing in 2014-2017.*
- 2. Number of instances children were reported missing from a children's home in 2014 - 2017.*
- 3. Number of children reported missing who met your criteria as being at risk of CSE in period Apr 2014 - 2017.*
- 4. Total number of children who have been reported missing more than once between period 2014 - 2017.*
- 5. Number of children who have been reported missing more than once from a children's home between 2014- 2017.*
- 6. The amount of money spent by the force on missing children's cases between 2014-2017?*
- 7. Number of outstanding missing children's cases between 2014 - 2017?"*

RESPONSE:

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

This response is correct as of 10 March 2017

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.



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Unfortunately Suffolk Constabulary are unable to confirm the total number of missing person cases flagged with a CSE element and those specifically reported missing from care homes. As this request would significantly exceed the time allocation for such complex research.

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 total numbers of instances children were reported missing in 2014-2017, is as follows:

2014: 1149 incidents involving 589 children
2015: 1531 incidents involving 637 children
2016: 2387 incidents involving 782 children
2017: 421 incidents involving 209 children

The total number of instances children were reported missing from a children's home in 2014 – 2017 is as follows, noting that the system records such an occurrence as 'child/youth in care'. Therefore the data may not relate solely to children care homes.

2014: 471 incidents
2015: 695 incidents
2016: 1270 incidents
2017: 199 incidents

There are currently no long term outstanding missing children's cases.
There are currently 5 children recorded as missing.