



## **Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 004342-18**

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

*“Please could you pull together a breakdown of the number of people arrested by your force on susp of offences related to cocaine (e.g. driving under the influence, possession, possession with intent to supply, etc. etc.), broken down into months, from Jan 2015 - Oct 2018?”*

### **Response to your Request**

The response provided below is correct as of 11 December 2018

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.

We are unable to provide arrest data that specifically relates to cocaine as the underlying drug for the arrest is not recorded, rather the drug is recorded as Class A, B etc. To establish which drug arrests purely relate to cocaine would involve a manual search through all Class A drug arrests for the time frame specified, with a total of 1179 arrests (Oct 2015 – Oct 2018) and at 3 minutes per search this would take in the region of 60 hours to retrieve.

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 table provides a monthly breakdown of the Class A drug arrests since October 2015 to October 2018. Please be advised that the Constabulary changed crime recording system to Athena during October 2018:

Offence Description	Month	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Drugs - Possess Class A</b>	January		12	5	15
	February		10	11	17
	March		22	20	25
	April		15	22	20
	May		13	21	13
	June		14	15	18
	July		8	18	15
	August		20	26	15
	September		11	16	22
	October	5	14	20	23
	November	14	15	22	
	December	23	14	19	
<b>Drugs - Possession With Intent to supply - Class A</b>	January		13	12	24
	February		9	14	15
	March		14	14	21
	April		5	17	18
	May		13	20	17
	June		7	13	14
	July		4	26	18
	August		6	31	17
	September		10	22	27
	October	5	10	24	23
	November	11	11	18	
	December	17	12	17	
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>75</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>377</b>



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