



## **Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 004452-19**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies on 10 December 2019 which you sought access to the following information:

*I would be grateful if you provide the following information relating to the use of police custody by your police force.*

*For each of the individual 12 months from April 2018 to March 2019 inclusive:*

- 1. The total number of authorised detentions of adult suspects (aged 18 or over)*
- 2. The total number of authorised detentions of adult suspects (aged 18 or over) in which the need for an appropriate adult (under PACE Code C) was recorded."*

### **Response to your Request**

The response provided below is correct as of 16 December 2019

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

During the 2018/19 financial year there was a total of 22,957 authorised detentions of adult suspects and a total of 1,917 adult voluntary interviews. In order to establish the number of occasions an appropriate adult was recorded would require us to manually review each of the detention records to extract the relevant numbers.

The information regarding appropriate adults is not centrally held by the Constabulary and there is no marker or flag applied to custody records that will allow us to extract bulk data sets to answer FOI requests.

Considering a search of even 30 seconds per record would take in excess of 200 hours.

Please note that during the research for this FOI we have contacted our providers at Anglia Care Trust to establish whether they hold information that we could provide onwards to answer this FOI, however their data is not accurate and to ensure it was, would also require us to cross reference with our databases and consequently, this information has not been provided.

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. The Constabularies do not hold, for the purposes of FOIA, all of 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, exceeding 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 Constabularies as £450 and specifies that this sum equates to 18 hours work per force at a standard rate of £25 per hour. This equates to 36 hours of work, or £900, for joint responses.

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 limit imposed on Freedom of Information requests.

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](mailto: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](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