



SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

REQUEST NUMBER: FOI Request 004588-17

REQUEST DETAILS:

1. *"Please provide a breakdown of notifiable offences recorded between 1 April and 31 March for each of 2016-17, 2015-16, 2014-15, 2013-14 and 2012-13*

Please break them down by both their major classification (in bold) and minor classification (if relevant), specifically:

Violence against the person (total)

Homicide

Violence with injury

Violence without injury

Sexual offences

Robbery

Theft Offences (total)

Burglary

Domestic burglary

Non-domestic burglary

Vehicle offences

Theft from the person

Bicycle theft

Shoplifting

Other theft offences

Criminal damage and arson

Drug offences

Possession of weapons offences

Public order offences

Miscellaneous crimes

2. *For each of the same above years (between 1 April and 31 March) please break down how many of each of the above crimes were "screened out" (crime reference number issued but no investigation took place) or if you do not use the term "screened out", please give the number where no investigation took place.*
3. *Please state if you have a discretionary disposal policy for closing crime reports you consider not to be in the public interest to pursue investigations. If you have a policy, please provide a copy of it.*
4. *Please state if there is any financial threshold for investigating crimes, e.g. £100 of goods stolen in order to investigate shoplifting."*

RESPONSE:



SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY

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

This response is correct as of 13 April 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.

Suffolk Constabulary is unable to extract data for the number of offences that were screened out. This level of information is not recorded in an easily searchable manner and would require manual trawl of the freetext in all offences to extract those that confirm the crime was screened.

Considering a search of even one minute per offence, it would take well in excess of 18 hours, considering there are over 30 thousand offences recorded in any one year.

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.

The crime mapper website publishes monthly crime figures, which may assist:

http://www.ukcrimestats.com/Police_Force/Suffolk_Constabulary

In March 2016 Suffolk Constabulary adopted the Proportionate Investigation Strategy. This is a guidance document for staff in relation to the Proportionate Investigation of Priority and Volume Crime Investigations and volume crime CCTV seizure.



SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY

It is not possible to define precise parameters applicable to investigating Priority and Volume crimes. Staff utilise the Proportionate Investigation Strategy as guidance to complement their professional judgement to identify the level of service that is proportionate to the investigation and this includes identifying when a case is not proportionate to investigate, or when an appropriate amount of work has been put into an investigation and it becomes no longer proportionate to continue.

A proportionate investigation is one where the resources used to investigate the viable lines of enquiry are relative to the seriousness (crime category, community impact and value of the property stolen) and solvability of the investigation.

All staff dealing with 'screened out' crimes and making professional judgement decisions on 'proportionate investigations' have daily access to and are supervised by a Detective Sergeant and a Detective Inspector.