



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 004613-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies on 20 December 2018 which you sought access to the following information:

1. "Within your constabulary, how many car thefts have there been annually in 2016, 2017 and 2018 (to date)?"
2. Within your constabulary, which town or city has had the most car thefts in 2018 (to date) and how many thefts was this?
3. Within your constabulary, what are the three most common cars to be stolen in 2018 (to date)?"
4. Please break this down to include the make and model of the most common cars that have been stolen and how many were stolen. For example – 365 Audi A3's were stolen during 2018. If you are unable to provide both make and model for safety issues, please provide the make (brand) in the same format as detailed.
5. Within your constabulary, in 2016, 2017 and 2018 (to date) , what is the total value of cars stolen broken down annually?"

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 3 January 2018

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

There have been over 3500 theft of motor vehicle offences recorded for the time frame specified across both Constabularies. In order to extract those offences that relate to the theft of a car, the Constabulary can search within the property tab for all reference to 'car'. However, this field is completed in fewer than half of the offences and we would therefore need to manually review each of the remaining offences to establish whether they relate to the theft of a car.

Considering a manual search will take approximately 4 minutes per crime, it will take in excess of 130 hours to extract accurate data to answer all parts of the request.

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.

The information provided below relates to the theft of all motor vehicles, including cars, vans and motorcycles etc.

The Total number of theft of motor vehicle offences recorded for all vehicle types, is as follows:

Year	Theft and Taken without consent		Theft only	
	Norfolk	Suffolk	Norfolk	Suffolk
2016	499	463	394	364
2017	591	521	484	396
2018	628	557	533	449
Grand Total	1718	1541	1411	1209

During 2018 and in relation to those offences above, the town from which the most vehicles were stolen is as follows, including the number of thefts.

	Theft and Taken without consent		Theft only	
	Town/City	Total	Town/City	Total
Norfolk	Norwich	194	Norwich	159
Suffolk	Ipswich	181	Ipswich	148

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*

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 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