

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 004807-17

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 4 May 2017 in which you sought access to the following information:

"I request the Strip Search and Intimate Strip Search statistics for the year 2016.

I request the Strip Search statistics in the following manner...

- *Monthly breakdown of the statistics*
- *Gender Breakdown*
- *Authorised Strip Searches / Actual Strip Searches / Positive Cases*
- *Age breakdown of the statistics*
- *Ethnicity breakdown of the statistics*

I request the Intimate Search statistics in the following manner...

- *Monthly breakdown of the statistics*
- *Gender Breakdown*
- *Authorised Intimate Searches / Actual Intimate Searches / Positive Cases*
- *Age breakdown of the statistics*
- *Ethnicity breakdown of the statistics ."*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 4 May 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.

The Constabulary is unable to supply information relating to the outcome of the search as the information is not held in a format that is easily retrievable.

Each record would need to be individually accessed and reviewed in order to confirm the outcome of the search.

In order to comply with this part of the request, a very conservative estimate of 2 mins per record to open and locate the relevant entry would take approximately 30 hours (894 records x 2 mins per record = 1788 mins, or 29hrs 48mins).

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.

There are a total of 882 unique custody records – 879 (strip searches only) and 3 (Intimate searches only). Of the 879 records, some detainees also had Intimate searches authorised, accounting for a further 12 searches making a grand total of 894 authorised searches in total (879 strip searches and 15 intimate searches).

The following statistics are based upon the total number of Strip and Intimate searches (894) authorised during 2016.

The number of detainees relating to the total number of authorised searches is 882 (879+3 unique records). This means that some detainees had both a Strip search and Intimate search authorised.

The table below provides the total number of strip searches authorised shown by month and broken down by gender.

2016 - Month	Female	Male
January	8	66
February	9	49
March	11	54
April	9	64
May	5	73
June	6	70
July	9	65
August	12	59
September	14	63



October	10	74
November	9	70
December	9	61
Total	111	768

The total number of Intimate searches authorised are shown in the table below, by month and gender.

Please note, of the 15 shown in the table below, only 3 relate to unique custody records. This means the other 12 records relate to detainees who also had a strip search authorised and are therefore also included in the table above.

2016 - Month	Female	Male
January	0	4
April	0	2
August	0	1
September	0	4
October	0	3
December	1	0
Total	1	14

The total number of strip searches authorised, shown by age and gender is provided in the table below

Age	Female	Male
13	2	1
14	0	8
15	0	7
16	1	31
17	2	32
18	2	34
19	3	41
20	4	31



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21	1	30
22	2	31
23	10	40
24	3	30
25	5	29
26	8	22
27	4	16
28	3	30
29	6	19
30	4	24
31	0	19
32	5	29
33	1	24
34	5	16
35	7	24
36	3	18
37	2	8
38	6	13
39	2	19
40	7	11
41	2	17
42	3	19
43	1	16
44	0	14
45	1	13
46	2	11
47	0	9
48	0	5
49	0	5
50	2	1



51	1	8
52	0	3
53	1	1
54	0	2
56	0	1
57	0	1
60	0	1
61	0	1
63	0	2
74	0	1
Total	111	768

The total number of Intimate searches authorised, broken down by age and gender profile, is as follows.

Please note, of the 15 shown in the table below, only 3 relate to unique custody records. This means the other 12 records relate to detainees who also had a strip search authorised and are therefore also included in the table above.

Age	Female	Male
16	0	3
17	0	2
18	0	1
19	0	2
21	0	1
23	0	4
37	0	1
45	1	0
Total	1	14

The total number of strip searches authorised and shown by “Self-Defined Ethnicity” (as defined by the suspect), is provided in the table below:



Self-Defined Ethnicity	Female	Male
African	0	14
Any Other Black Background	1	14
Any Other Ethnic Group	0	2
Any Other Mixed Background	1	4
Any Other White Background	2	16
Bangladeshi	0	2
Caribbean	1	9
Indian	0	1
Not Recorded	72	493
Not Stated	1	3
White and Asian	0	1
White and Black African	0	1
White and Black Caribbean	1	8
White British	32	200
Total	111	768

The total number of Intimate searches authorised and shown by “Ethnic appearance” (as defined by the custody officer), is provided in the table below.

Ethnic Appearance	Female	Male
Asian	1	16
Black	6	157
Middle Eastern	0	4
Unknown	3	22
White – North European	99	551
White – South European	2	18
Total	111	768

Please note that the purpose of showing both tables concerning ethnicity is that a large proportion of “Self-Defined” entries are shown as “not recorded”. In order to try to give a

clearer view, the custody officer's assessment based on "Ethnic Appearance" is included to bridge that gap.

The total number of Intimate searches authorised and shown by "Self-Defined Ethnicity" (defined by the detainees), is provided in the table below:

Self-Defined Ethnicity	Female	Male
African	0	1
Any Other Black Background	0	1
Not Recorded	1	10
White and Black African	0	2
Total	1	14

The total number of Intimate searches authorised and shown by "Ethnic appearance" (as defined by the custody officer), is provided in the table below:

Ethnic Appearance	Female	Male
Black	0	13
Unknown	0	1
White – North European	1	0
Total	1	14

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 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 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 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