



Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 005034-17

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary on the 22 May 2017 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *"How many roadside drug tests have been carried out since March 2015? Please provide a monthly breakdown.*
2. *How many of the roadside drug tests detailed in (1) were recorded as positive? Please provide a monthly breakdown.*
3. *For each of the positive roadside tests in (2), please detail (where possible) the drug recorded (e.g. cannabis, cocaine etc).*
4. *How many police station drug driving screening tests have been carried out since March 2015? Please provide a monthly breakdown.*
5. *How many of the screening tests detailed in (4) were recorded as positive? Please provide a monthly breakdown.*
6. *For each of the positive screening tests in (5), please detail (where possible) the drug recorded (e.g. ecstasy, heroin, ketamine etc)."*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 22 May 2017

Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies have located the following information as relevant to your 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. 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.

It is considered that to provide an answer to your request will take in excess of 36 hours to provide the information.

In relation to point 3 of your request concerning positive screening tests, the information is not recorded by actual drug group. This information would need to be sourced from

associated records, including custody and crime data; however it is not necessarily the case the data will be recorded.

Additionally, in respect points 4-6, the Constabularies do not currently collate the usage of the station screening drug test machines. The only way to ascertain this information would be to review each of the 6 police investigation centre machines individually to manually retrieve this information.

The Constabulary's would be required to review manual records to ascertain whether police station screening tests had been undertaken. As there is no central record for this information, it is difficult to establish an approximate time to retrieve the data being requested.

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.

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 annual number of roadside drug tests undertaken by the Constabularies, is as follows:

Force	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Totals
Norfolk	625	1725	350	2700
Suffolk	500	1525	325	2350
Totals	1125	3250	675	5050

The total number of positive roadside tests resulting in a blood sample being submitted for laboratory analysis, from March 2015 to April 2017 are as follows:

Force	Norfolk			Suffolk		
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
January	n/k	16	57	n/k	15	43
February	n/k	7	42	n/k	11	29
March	n/k	10	38	n/k	40	49

April	n/k	23	87	n/k	62	80
May	n/k	8		n/k	32	
June	6	26		5	29	
July	6	28		26	49	
August	7	26		13	30	
September	14	22		19	39	
October	3	33		18	26	
November	3	22		13	46	
December	9	41		29	48	
Totals	48	262	224	123	427	201

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 20 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