



## **Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 005513-17**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 28 June 2017 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *“How many female police officers were assaulted in Suffolk in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 (so far).*
2. *How many days were lost to sickness as a result of a female police officer being assaulted in each of the above years.*
3. *If the above will cost too much time and money to answer, please could you provide information of 2015 and 2016.”*

### **Response to your Request**

The response provided below is correct as of 28 June 2017

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

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.

Information held on the Constabulary's crime system, can identify the number of occasions an offence is recorded under the 'assault of a police officer' offence category. However, this will not provide the number of occasions an officer is assaulted where the offence was recorded as another violent offence, such as GBH or ABH.

To try and establish the number of injuries sustained in total, we contacted the Health and Safety department, who record all notified officer injuries whilst on duty. However the information is only available on their records from 2015. Information prior to this time would only be held within the crime itself and a manual review of each offence would be required.

Additionally, the health and safety department only started recording the names of the officers from 2016. The name is required to cross reference injuries with HR sickness records to establish whether an officer had taken sickness absence as a direct result of the sustained injury.

Therefore to provide a full response, the Constabulary would be required to manually review over 400 offences and for those predating 2015, cross reference these manually with the HR system to establish whether each officer took sickness absence as a result of an injury.



Considering a search of 4 minutes per crime, it is estimated it will take the Constabulary in excess of 40 hours to provide this information.

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.

During the 2015-2017 calendar years, the total number of female officers who were assaulted whilst on duty and sustained an injury, which was reported to the Constabulary's health and safety department, was as follows:

Year	Number of assaults with injury
2017	1
2016	16
2015	10

In respect the number of days sickness the above officers had as a result of the injury, the data is only accessible for 2016 and 2017, for which 63 hours sickness was taken as a result of an assault.

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](mailto: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](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