



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 007269-17

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 15 November 2017 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *“How many police incidents the mental health triage car has been called to since it was launched in April 2014*
2. *How many people have been detained in police custody under the Mental Health Act since April 2014*
3. *How many people have been detained in a clinical setting under the Mental Health Act since April 2014*
4. *How many people have the triage team prevented from being detained under the Mental Health Act since April 2014”*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 15 November 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.

The Constabulary does not hold the number of occasions the triage team have prevented an individual from being detained under the Mental Health Act. We also do not hold information relating to the 2014 calendar year. The information would most likely be held with the NHS trust however, we would potentially have retained records within officer Pocket Notebooks (PNBs) or within call records. In either scenario we would be required to manually review a large number of records to establish what information concerning the use of the triage car is held, which may



include details regarding those individuals who were not subsequently detained under the Mental Health Act.

Considering the many hundreds of records we would be required to review, it would take in excess of 18 hours to establish whether the information is actually held by the Constabulary.

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 total number of incidents the mental health triage car has been called to since 2015 onwards:

Year	Attended Incidents by Car
2015	1108
2016	762*
2017	459**

* Car did not run for 5 months due to recruitment of new staff to posts.

** Car has not run for periods due to sickness, exact count of unavailable days is unknown.

The total number of persons detained under Section 136 and taken to a Police Investigation Centre (PIC) rather than a health based place of safety, since April 2014, is as follows:

Year	MH detentions in Custody
2014/15	6
2015/16	3



2016/17	3
2017/18	0

The Constabulary does not detain individuals in a clinical setting; rather we take them there once they have been assessed.

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