



**SUFFOLK  
CONSTABULARY**  
*Taking pride in keeping Suffolk safe*

## **Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 000597-20**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 10 February 2020 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *“Do you have a specific rural crime strategy?”*
2. *How many rural crime officers (or officers trained to tackle rural crime) did your force have in the following years?*
  - i. 2010
  - ii. 2015
  - iii. 2019
3. *Are you able to identify crimes that happen in a rural or urban area when you record crimes on your crime database?*
4. *If answered yes to question 4, can you please tell me how many crimes happened in a rural area and urban areas in the following years?*
  - i. 2010
  - ii. 2015
  - iii. 2019
5. *What are three most common rural crimes committed in your area in the following years?*
  - i. 2010
  - ii. 2015
  - iii. 2019”

## **Response to your Request**

The response provided below is correct as of 26 February 2020

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

1. Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires that Suffolk Constabulary, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) is to provide you the applicant with a notice which:
  - (a) States that fact
  - (b) Specifies the exemption(s) in question and
  - (c) States (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption(s) applies.

The information is exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption;

**Section 21(1) - Information reasonably accessible by other means**

The Constabulary's Rural Policing Strategy is published on the publication scheme and is therefore reasonably accessible by other means as per Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The following links will take you to the strategy: <http://www.suffolk.police.uk/about-us/our-policies/strategies>

2. The Constabulary has the following number of rural crime officers:

Year	Total
2010	0
2015	1
2019	3

The officers within the rural crime team undertake tactical duties with regards to rural crime, however dependent on operational demand, all police officers can undertake these duties in order to assist and consolidate the work of the rural crime team.

3. The Constabulary can differentiate, to an extent, crimes in rural or urban areas. Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner has agreed a list of SNTs which are either rural or urban overall, and this is the list we use for performance purposes.
4. Information is not held in this format for 2010, we have therefore provided the information for all crimes by rural and urban locations, for the 2015 and 2019 calendar years.

Year	2015	2019
Rural	23,164	25,116
Urban	28,356	30,626
Unrecorded	83	0

5. The three highest number of offences recorded in rural areas, is as follows:

Offence	2015
Common assault (no injury)	1,992



Theft - other	1,745
Assault occasioning ABH (s.47)	1,433

Offence	2019
Assault without Injury - Common assault and battery	3,707
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (ABH)	2,002
Theft if not classified elsewhere	1,523

Being a mainly rural county, we are acutely aware of the issues and concerns caused by rural crime. Our dedicated rural crime officers invest time in training all frontline staff on the importance of rural crime and the vulnerabilities that come with it, as well as increasing officer's knowledge around matters they don't come across on a day to day basis, with a view to ensuring rural communities are provided with a high level of service.

***Police forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide crime statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the crime data. It should be noted that for these reasons this force's response to your questions should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you may receive.***

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.



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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 40 working 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