



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 001667-20

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies on 15 May 2020 which you sought access to the following information:

1. *“The number of individuals under the age of 18 who are potential victims of modern slavery/human trafficking and have been interviewed by a Joint Investigation Team comprised of both this police force and the local children’s social care/children’s social services department from April 2018 till present?”*
2. *Please could you also provide information on where these interviews are most likely to take place?*
3. *Please detail if this police force and the local children's services department in your area are co-located (to mean not only physically located together, but also the sharing of case management systems and processes).*
4. *Please provide a copy of any policy, guidance, training and/or instruction document on the use of joint interviewing for police officers and social workers in your Local Authority area.”*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 28 May 2020

Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies have considered your request for information and the response is below.

Suffolk Constabulary does not have a central record for the number of individuals under the age of 18 who are potential victims of modern slavery/human trafficking and have been interviewed by a Joint Investigation Team. We would be required to review hundreds of investigations in order to extract this level of information and consequently, it would be too onerous a task to undertake within the 18 hours.

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.

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.

1. The information provided below relates to Norfolk Constabulary.

As from April 2018 to date, there were 7 juveniles subject to NRM referrals that were seen jointly by Childrens' Services and Norfolk Police with regard to MSHT concerns.

A further juvenile provided a formal Video Recorded Interview (VRI) which was conducted jointly by Childrens' Services and Norfolk Police

2. In Norfolk, interviews are undertaken at approved Video Interview Suite.
In Suffolk, interviews are undertaken in ABE suites.
3. Norfolk Police and Childrens' Services are physically co-located in the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub at County Hall, Norwich. Case Management systems are not shared.

Suffolk Constabulary is apart of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), which is co located partners, with a joint system that all partners can access. Operational staff are not co located.

4. There is no specific policy with regard to joint interviewing for Police Officers and Social Workers.

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 40 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