



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 001960-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 28 May 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

*“The number of incidents of thefts from construction sites within the Suffolk jurisdiction from 2013 onward,
Items stolen during construction site thefts from 2013 onward
Value of goods stolen during each theft from 2013 onward,
Methods by which criminals gained access to construction sites in order to carry out the theft/s
If any vandalism occurred to construction sites.”*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of xx xxxx 2019

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

The Constabulary is unable to confirm the total number of items stolen and the value thereof, as the information is not recorded in a manner which will enable us to extract the data in its entirety and accurately. The Constabulary's crime system does have the option to record information within the property field, however this is not always completed. On the majority of occasions this information would be contained within the crime freetext itself or within associated documentation.

The values of the property is generally recorded on fewer occasions than the physical item stolen, and there are a number of times such information would be contained within associated documentation, such as the victims statement.

Additionally, there was a change to the crime recording system during October 2015, which resulted in a difference to the way in which this type of offence is recorded. Historically, such offences were recorded under the location type of 'building site', however since October 2015, this became a non-mandatory field and the figures do suggest a reduction. This may be a reduction in this type of crime, or simply a reduction in officers recording the location type correctly. Either way, we cannot categorically confirm the number of offences that have occurred on a building site without physically reviewing all offences where no location type has been completed.

Taking all into consideration, the Constabulary considers it to be a huge task to review all of the information held and data held within offences where no location is present, to provide an

accurate response to this FOI.

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.

The below confirms the number of offences recorded with a property location of 'building site', noting that this may not be an accurate representation of all offences recorded.

Theft/Burglary/Vehicle taking at Building Sites								
Date	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Jan	12	10	12	9	5	8	8	64
Feb	9	7	9	12	1	5	3	46
Mar	10	14	7	6	4	6	1	48
Apr	11	13	7	4	5	3	7	50
May	12	7	7	4	3	7	3	43
Jun	10	7	12		6	6		41



Jul	14	7	10	3	7	3		44
Aug	12	10	9	1	4	2		38
Sep	8	15	21	3	6	3		56
Oct	8	17	11	6	7	6		55
Nov	7	12	5	5	2	5		36
Dec	9	6	3	3	5	6		32
Total	122	125	113	56	55	60	22	553

Arson/Criminal Damage at Building Sites								
Row Labels	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Jan	4	2	5	3		1	1	16
Feb	1	1		4	4	2		12
Mar		1	4	1				6
Apr	1	2	2			1	1	7
May	2		4	2	1		2	11
Jun	3	3	3					9
Jul	2	3				2		7
Aug	2	3	4	1		1		11
Sep	1	1	3	1		1		7
Oct	1		1			1		3
Nov	4					2		6
Dec	1		1	2	1	3		8
Total	22	16	27	14	6	14	4	103

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*

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