



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

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 002195-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 13 June 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *“Total number of road traffic accidents involving a horsebox in the jurisdiction you police each calendar year. If possible please also provide the reason for the accident i.e. driver error/ horsebox failure/ third party fault.*
2. *Total number of road traffic accidents involving a horse trailer in the jurisdiction you police each calendar year. If possible please also provide the reason for the accident i.e. driver error/ horse trailer failure/ third party fault.*
3. *Total number of road traffic accidents involving a caravan in the jurisdiction you police each calendar year. If possible please also provide the reason for the accident i.e. driver error/ caravan failure/ third party fault.*
4. *Total number of road traffic accidents involving a horse and rider in the jurisdiction you police each calendar year. If possible please also provide the reason for the accident i.e. car passed too closely to horse/ passing too quickly*
5. *Total number of horses that have died as a result of a road traffic accident in the jurisdiction you police each calendar year.*
6. *Total number of horse riders that have died as a result of a road traffic accident (that occurred whilst they were riding) in the jurisdiction you police each calendar year.”*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 27 June 2019

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

The Constabulary's Traffic Justice Unit will record all accidents that have occurred within their document management systems. Since 2016, the TJU changed systems and as a result, they are no longer able to research specific keywords within the search functionality of the system. In order to extract the numbers to answer this request from 2016 to date would require a manual review of all road traffic collisions that have occurred in that time frame.

The total number of RTCs recorded from 2016 – 2018 is as follows:



2016 – 4796 RTCs
2017 – 4928 RTCs
2018 – 4532 RTCs

Even at 2 minutes per RTC this would equate to 475 hours of searching time.

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 following information relates to the years 2013 – 2015:

	2013	2014	2015
Horsebox	0	2	1
Horse Trailer	No search option available		
Caravan	0	0	0



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Horse / Rider	6	7	7
Horses	0	0	0
Horse Riders	0	0	0

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