



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 002516-20

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies on 24 July 2020 which you sought access to the following information:

1. *a) How many of your vehicles were destroyed (by destroyed I mean damaged beyond economic repair) in 2019/20 following any kind of road traffic accident?*
b) What was the make and model of the most expensive vehicle that was written off?
2. *a) What was the total cost of this damage to your service because of the accidents referred to in Q.1?*
b) If you were insured and suffered no direct cost other than through your insurance premiums, please provide me with a figure for the total value of those vehicles when written off.
3. *a) In the 2019/20 financial year, how many claims of compensation were paid to members of the public who were injured in a collision involving one of your vehicles?*
b) What was the total amount of the compensation? Please note that members of the public could be a passenger in your vehicle, a pedestrian or the driver/passenger in another vehicle.

Note: The question relates to the date the claim was paid irrespective of when the accident took place or when the claim was made."

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 24 July 2020

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

With regards to question 3, the Suffolk Constabulary system does not have a searchable field that extracts the total number of compensation payments specifically to identify why there was a third party payment. This could include anything from vehicle damage, hire costs, injury etc. The only

was for Suffolk to extract the data was to do a search of the free text notes section, which is what we have provided. However, there may be other relevant claims made that have not been captured with this search. The only way to be sure, would be to review over 600 entries, which would be cost prohibitive for Suffolk Constabulary.

Please note that the information provided for Norfolk Constabulary is accurate.

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. 17 of the Constabularies police vehicles were damaged beyond economic repair following a road traffic collision.

Norfolk – 10
Suffolk – 7

The most expensive vehicle that was written off, was a BMW 450d Touring (Norfolk) and a Vauxhall Astra Estate (Suffolk).

2. The total cost of the damage referred in question 1, was as follows:

Norfolk = £43,162.50

Suffolk = £19,440

This amount is calculated after receiving income from the sale of the salvaged vehicles.

The above figures are the full losses because we are self-insured for vehicle damage

3. The total number of claims of compensation paid to members of the public who were injured in a collision involving police owned vehicle, is as follows:

Norfolk = 4 claims - £13,597.48

Suffolk = 5 claims - £19,592.77

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