



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 00-18

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

- 1) *“How many (i) antique firearms and (ii) firearms that take obsolete calibre ammunition were seized by your police force in the financial years:*
 - a. 2013-14
 - b. 2014-15
 - c. 2015-16
 - d. 2016-17
 - e. 2017-18

- 2) *In how many crimes were (i) antique firearms and (ii) firearms that take obsolete calibre ammunition identified as being used in pursuance of a crime in the financial years:*
 - a. 2013-14
 - b. 2014-15
 - c. 2015-16
 - d. 2016-17
 - e. 2017-18

- 3) *How many homicides were identified as having been caused by (i) antique firearms and (ii) firearms that take obsolete calibre ammunition in the financial years:*
 - a. 2013-14
 - b. 2014-15
 - c. 2015-16
 - d. 2016-17
 - e. 2017-18

If this information is not recorded in an easily reportable format then could you please do a free text search of crime reports relevant to my questions for the phrases “antique firearm” and “obsolete calibre”.

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 10 September 2018

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

Seized firearms are recorded on the Constabulary’s electronic property system (EPS), the data will include seized, found and surrendered items. However, the level of detail recorded will rely on the inputting officer. Therefore, to extract seized items alone will be extremely time consuming.



The request also asks for us to consider the number of antique firearms or obsolete calibre. There is no definition at this time as to what an antique firearm is, it is generally accepted by the Courts that if the ammunition is readily available then the gun should not be considered antique, however we would have no way of researching this in our system. Therefore the Constabulary would be required to search using an element of interpretation and thus not providing an accurate response.

You may wish to consider refining your request for returns on breech loading guns (cartridge firing), as opposed to the generic title of 'antique firearm'.

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.

A search has been completed of the Constabulary's crime system for all offences recorded that contain the phrases 'antique firearm' or 'obsolete calibre'.

No offences were located that contain any of the above two phrases.



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.



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 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 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