



**NORFOLK**  
CONSTABULARY  
*Our Priority is You*

January 2016

Dear

**Freedom of Information Request Reference N<sup>o</sup>: FOI 000524/15**

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk Constabulary on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015 in which you sought access to the following information:

Under the FOI Act I would like a breakdown of the number of assaults recorded on those with the job title 'Priest' 'Vicar' or another member of the clergy.

- Broken down by calendar year: 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012
- Please list the type of incident recorded e.g grievous bodily harm, actual bodily harm
- Please provide detail on the incident/MO notes where possible

Norfolk Constabulary holds information relevant to your request.

**Response to your Request**

When responding to a request for information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, a public authority is not obliged to provide information if the authority estimates that the cost of the retrieval of the information requested would be in excess of £450 (equivalent to 18 hours work).

The costs criteria relates to a request in its entirety, which means that if we cannot retrieve all of the information requested within the costs limit, we are not obliged to retrieve *any* of the information requested.

The Norfolk Constabulary estimates that to retrieve all the information you have requested would exceed cost in excess of £450.

In order to establish what information is held, relevant to your request, we have contacted our Joint Performance and Analysis Department (JPAD). They have advised that when recording a crime on the Constabulary's Crime and Intelligence System there is a field that can be completed which relates to victim occupation. This is not a mandatory field and therefore, as a guide, they have looked at the number of crimes where this field has been completed. From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 to 19<sup>th</sup> October 2015 there were 13,899 Violence against the Person offences and of these 10,351 crimes do not have an occupation completed.

We believe that to provide you with an accurate response we would need to review all of those crimes where the victim occupation field has not been completed, to see if relevant information is held elsewhere within the crime. It is estimated that this would take approximately 2 minutes per crime, of which there are 10,351 that would need to be reviewed. This would equate to over 345 hours for the partial year of 2015 only.

This would exceed the appropriate limit for dealing with a Freedom of Information request, in terms of costs, and therefore Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act applies.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 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 2004, defines the ‘appropriate limit’ for the Norfolk 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 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000), this serves as a Refusal Notice for your request.

#### Advice & assistance

Although excess cost removes Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relevant to your request, which was 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 ‘Violence Against the Person’ offences where the victim occupation has been completed as ‘religious’ and the sub-occupation as Vicar, Minister, etc.

Occupation	Occupation Sub	Description	Description Text	Year
Religious	Vicar	Causing Intentional Harassment, Alarm Or Distress	Crime states retired vicar. Male burst into home address uninvited and shouted at I/P in his kitchen.	2014
Religious	Vicar	Fear Or Provocation Of Violence	Male kicked the glass panel in the door two or three times whilst shouting abusive insults at IP and another male.	2014
Religious	Vicar	Fear Or Provocation Of Violence	As above, second victim	2014
Religious	Minister	Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm	Punched the IP in the face causing a minor graze before making off	2012
Religious	Missionary Worker	Racially or Religiously Aggravated Assault - ABH	IP was going door to door when they were confronted with the offender who has apparently pushed them over when leaving his property.	2012
Religious	Minister	Harassment	Person has sent 19 text messages to IP. Ongoing harassment.	2012
Religious	Minister	Harassment	Offender, issued a PIN, not to contact victim, since then has sent 27 texts and phoned once.	2012