



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

March 2020

### **Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 001006/20**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Norfolk Constabulary on the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020 in which you sought access to the following information:

Please could you let me know how many cannabis farms have been raided by the force over the last five years?

Could the information be broken down by year please? For example; In 2015, XXXX cannabis farms were raided by the force.

If it doesn't exceed the cost you are obliged to spend collecting this data, please could you let me know the total estimated value of cannabis seized each year?

For example; In 2015, the force seized £220,600 worth of cannabis.

If possible, could you please provide some information about the forces largest seize? For example; our largest seize was in 2016 where we seized an estimated £XXXXXX of cannabis.

### **Response to your Request**

Norfolk Constabulary has considered your request and our response is below.

When responding to a request for information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act (2000), 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 of the information you have requested would exceed cost in excess of £450.

During the period requested, the Constabulary has recorded 601 crimes in relation to the production of cannabis offences. In order to obtain the details of the number of plants any estimated monetary value, it would be necessary to read through the details of every report. With an estimate of 5 minutes each, this would exceed 50 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 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 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 the Constabulary's 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 number of recorded crimes for cannabis production have been provided below.

Year and Month	Produce Cannabis a Class C controlled Drug	Production or being concerned in production of a controlled drug - Class B - Cannabis	Total
<b>2015</b>		<b>64</b>	<b>64</b>
January		2	2
February		1	1
May		1	1
September		1	1
October		5	5
November		31	31
December		23	23
<b>2016</b>		<b>129</b>	<b>129</b>
January		11	11
February		5	5
March		15	15
April		11	11
May		10	10
June		10	10
July		13	13
August		7	7
September		12	12
October		13	13
November		6	6
December		16	16
<b>2017</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>130</b>
January	1	10	11
February		14	14
March		8	8
April		10	10

May		13	13
June		11	11
July		10	10
August		12	12
September		14	14
October		13	13
November		5	5
December		9	9
<b>2018</b>		<b>145</b>	<b>145</b>
January		11	11
February		12	12
March		10	10
April		12	12
May		18	18
June		16	16
July		7	7
August		16	16
September		9	9
October		18	18
November		9	9
December		7	7
<b>2019</b>		<b>133</b>	<b>133</b>
January		11	11
February		12	12
March		18	18
April		11	11
May		9	9
June		10	10
July		16	16
August		5	5
September		13	13
October		10	10
November		9	9
December		9	9