



NORFOLK
CONSTABULARY
Our Priority is You

April 2019

Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 001076/19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Norfolk Constabulary on the 18th March 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

- 1 Please state the number of people aged 16 to 25 who have been reported missing to the police in each of the calendar years:
A 2016
B 2017
C 2018
- 2 Please breakdown the number of missing people as stated in question 1 by ethnicity (i.e – white, Asian, Black Caribbean etc)
- 3 Please breakdown the number of missing people as stated in question 1 by gender
- 4 Please state the outcome (if recorded) of each missing person investigation as outlined in question 1 (ie – found unharmed, deceased, still missing)

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.

The information you have requested in questions 2 and 4 is not easily retrievable from Constabulary systems. The ethnicity is not routinely recorded and it would require a review of missing persons reports and incidents in order to see if this information is recorded. Additionally the missing person system does not allow for easy identification of missing person outcomes. Again, this would require the manual review of individual records.

Based on the number of reports, as detailed at the end of this response, just 5 minutes each would exceed 270 hours. This would therefore significantly 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 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 and 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.

Q1 Missing persons, aged 16 to 25 years

Year	Number
2016	876
2017	1284
2018	1163

Q3 Breakdown by Gender (where recorded)

Year	Male	Female
2016	440	415
2017	725	556
2018	592	563