



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

April 2019

## **Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 001263/19**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Norfolk Constabulary on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

- 1 How many missing persons incidents have been reported to the force in the last three years? For this and all questions in point 2, please break down the figures by financial year: 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19 and the following age ranges: 0-17, 18-35, 36+
- 2 Out of those:
  - I How many have been solved? Please give a further breakdown of the number with those found dead or alive.
  - II How many still remain open or active? Please give a further breakdown of the number with gender, ages and dates (month/year) of when they were first reported missing.
  - III How many of all the missing person cases were highlighted as being at risk of:
    - A Child sexual exploitation
    - B Abuse
    - C Trafficking
    - D Mental health concerns
  - IV How many of all the missing person cases resulted in murder investigations? As stated previously, please break down figures for all the above questions by financial year: 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19 and the following age ranges: 0-17, 18-35, 36+
- 3 Which are the five longest running unsolved missing persons inquiries on record? Please provide the following details for each one: names, ages and dates of when they were first reported missing.
- 4 Which are the five longest running closed missing persons cases on record? Please provide the following details for each one: names, ages and dates of when they were first reported missing, date of when the case closed, whether the person was found dead or alive or if no body was recovered.

## **Response to your Request**

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.

Research has been undertaken of missing person records for the years requested. During the 3 year period, there have been almost 11,000 reports. In order to provide you with details regarding

the number of these which have been solved within the time period requested, it would be necessary to review each one. This also applies with regard to the number of cases which remain active/open.

Due to the volume of reports, this would be an enormous task which would 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 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.

Q1 Number of missing person incidents:-

0 – 17 Years	18 – 35 Years	36+ Years
<b>2016/17</b>		
1947	643	659
<b>2017/18</b>		
2537	671	704
<b>2018/19</b>		
2427	666	698

Q2 Number of persons found deceased:-

0 – 17 Years	18 – 35 Years	36+ Years
<b>2016/17</b>		
0	7	10
<b>2017/18</b>		
0	7	9
<b>2018/19</b>		
0	4	15

Q3 Links have been provided below relating to cold case missing person cases:-

- <https://www.norfolk.police.uk/news/cold-cases/yvette-watson>
- <https://www.norfolk.police.uk/news/cold-cases/steven-newing>
- <https://www.norfolk.police.uk/news/cold-cases/april-fabb>