



May 2020

## Freedom of Information Request Reference N<sup>o</sup>: FOI 001454/20

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies on the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2020 in which you sought access to the following information:

- 1 How many incidents of illegal dumping of rubbish (also commonly known as fly dumping or fly tipping) occurred within the jurisdiction of your force's authority each whole year for the last five years (i.e. 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019)?
- 2 How many incidents of illegal dumping of rubbish (also commonly known as fly dumping or fly tipping) occurred within the jurisdiction of your force's authority have occurred since the beginning of 2020?
- 3 How many arrests were made by your police force for illegal dumping of rubbish (also commonly known as fly dumping or fly tipping) each whole year for the last five years (i.e. 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019)?
- 4 How many arrests were made by your police force for illegal dumping of rubbish (also commonly known as fly dumping or fly tipping) since the beginning of 2020

If information for the last five years is likely to exceed cost limits then please supply information for the last two years.

## Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies have considered your request and our response is below:

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 and Suffolk Constabularies estimates that to retrieve all the information you have requested for both forces would exceed cost in excess of £450 (per force).

There is no specific offence category for the recording of arrests in relation to fly-tipping or dumping of rubbish. Since October 2015 only, there are 2691 arrests under 'Other – Not Listed – PNC Recordable Offences'. It would be necessary to read through each of these to see if any are relevant to your request.

This research would significantly 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 and Suffolk Constabularies as £450 for each Constabulary, 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 the number of recorded crimes:

YEAR	NORFOLK	SUFFOLK
Depositing Causing The Deposition Or Permitting The Deposition Treating Keeping Or Disposing Of Controlled Special Waste In Or On Land Without A Licence		
2014	2	0
Depositing controlled waste (fly-tipping)		
2014	0	9
2015	0	41
Depositing, causing the deposition or permitting the deposition treating, keeping or disposing of controlled (but not special) waste in or on land without a licence		
2015	0	4
2016	0	11
2017	1	5
2018	0	5
2019	1	0
2020	0	2
Depositing, causing the deposition or permitting the deposition of controlled special waste in or on land without a licence		
2016	0	2
2017	0	4
2018	0	3
2019	0	1
2020	0	1

Please note, reports of fly-tipping will also be reported to the local councils and they may hold further information.