



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

May 2019

### **Freedom of Information Request Reference N<sup>o</sup>: FOI 001651/19**

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

- 1 Please can you tell me how many missing persons' cases in your police force area were initially assigned the following risk levels: no apparent risk (Absent), low risk, medium risk, high risk each in the calendar years;  
A 2017  
B 2018
- 2 Please can you breakdown the information identified in the answers to Question 1 by gender of the individuals
- 3 Please can you further breakdown the information identified in the answers to Question 2 by whether the individual was a child or an adult (under 18 or 18 and over)
- 4 Please can you further breakdown the information identified in the answers to Question 3 by the ethnicity of the individuals
- 5 Please can you further breakdown the information identified in the answers to Question 4 by the outcomes of the cases

### **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.

It is not possible to retrieve the information for questions 4 and 5 within the cost limit. The ethnicity is not a mandatory field on the Constabulary's COMPACT missing person database. This information may be recorded within the freetext of incident records. Additionally, outcome details would also be held within individual records.

Each case would therefore need to be reviewed and in some cases, cross-checked with incident reports logged by the Contact and Control Room. Based on the number of records this 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 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 Please note, the following information has been extracted from the missing persons database 'COMPACT'. It is not possible to ascertain the initial risk level therefore the information provided below is the risk level recorded at the point of closing the record.

<b>2017</b>				
<b>Absent</b>	<b>Missing Low Risk</b>	<b>Missing Medium Risk</b>	<b>Missing High Risk</b>	<b>Missing but Risk Not Specified</b>
<b>MALES</b>				
192	202	1911	163	28
<b>FEMALES</b>				
52	90	1401	154	45
<b>TRANSGENDER or UNKNOWN</b>				
-	-	15	1	1
<b>UNDER 18s</b>				
31	8	2454	124	46
<b>18 and OVER</b>				
213	284	873	194	28
<b>2018</b>				
<b>Absent</b>	<b>Missing Low Risk</b>	<b>Missing Medium Risk</b>	<b>Missing High Risk</b>	<b>Missing but Risk Not Specified</b>
<b>MALES</b>				
140	165	1704	150	77
<b>FEMALES</b>				
65	78	1380	133	36
<b>TRANSGENDER or UNKNOWN</b>				
-	2	17	-	-
<b>UNDER 18s</b>				
-	-	2200	83	62
<b>18 and OVER</b>				
205	245	901	200	51