



February 2019

## Freedom of Information Request Reference N<sup>o</sup>: FOI 000168/19

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

For each of the last five full financial years (March 2013- April 2014 to March 2017-April 2018) and the eight months from April to December 2018 please provide details of each contract for the private hire or provision otherwise of police officers under Section 25 of the Police Act 1996 ("Provision of Special Services") for which the force received payment.

Specifically:

- The name or title of the public body, individual, organisation or company that has paid for the officers.
- The address or location where the officers were deployed and, where available, the nature of the event.
- The number of officers contracted for.
- The amount paid and the duration of the contract or agreement.
- The nature of the duties for which the officers were contracted (eg public order; prevention of anti-social behaviour)

Please note I am not asking for information concerning payments for the policing of large-scale sporting events, such as football matches, or events for which grants are available from other Government funds such as the policing of party political conferences or demonstrations.

This request relates purely to the provisions of Section 25 below:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/16/section/25>

## Response to your Request

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).

The finance department has undertaken research in relation to your request and advised that it is not possible to retrieve the relevant information within the 36 hour cost limit for both Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies. They have been able to identify approximately 250 ledger entries for the

financial years 2015/16 to 2018/19 (to end December 2018). Whilst the details of income are available, the further requested details regarding officer numbers, etc, will require additional research. Some of the information may be available on financial records and invoices. Other specific details will be held by various departments across the two Constabularies.

Identifying income prior to 2015/16 would require considerable additional research as this information is held on legacy systems.

This would 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 and 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.

<b>2015/16</b>	
63,852.66	Abnormal Load Escort Total
3,770.00	Newmarket Races Total
4,673.76	Road Closure Total
3,417.54	Suffolk Show Total
290.10	Tour of Britain Total
282.05	Women’s Tour of Britain Total
<b>2016/17</b>	
28,153.85	Abnormal Load Escort Total
2,136.67	Ipswich Music Day Total
6,095.20	Newmarket Races Total
10,682.81	Royal Norfolk Show Total
234.08	Speed Camera Works Total
3,715.62	Suffolk Show Total
321.86	Women’s Tour of Britain Total
<b>2017/18</b>	
41,353.05	Abnormal Load Escort Total
7,591.00	Newmarket Races Total
3,715.62	Suffolk Show Total

6,000.00	NCFC Concert Total
1,053.84	Traffic Enforcement Falcon Street Total
<b>Apr – Dec 2018</b>	
36,499.28	Abnormal Load Escort Total
7,591.00	Newmarket Races Total
3,708.33	Suffolk Show Total