



June 2020

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 001820/20

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies on the 1st June 2020 in which you sought access to the following information:

Please can you provide this information on a monthly basis?

- 1 How many number plate cloning incidents were recorded within the years 2018 / 2019 / 2020 (Up until March 2020)?
Please can you provide this information on a monthly basis?
- 2 How many mis-spaced number plate offences were recorded within the years 2018 / 2019 / 2020 (Up until March 2020)?
Please can you provide this information on a monthly basis?
- 3 How many reports of stolen number plate offences were recorded within the years 2018 / 2019 / 2020 (Up until March 2020)?
Please can you provide this information on a monthly basis?
- 4 What was the total amount of fines issued from mis-spaced / illegal number plates, within the years 2018 / 2019 / 2020 (Up until March 2020)?
- 5 What was the total amount of revenue received from offences of mis-spaced / illegal number plates, within the years 2018 / 2019 / 2020 (Up until March 2020)?
Please can you provide this information on a monthly basis?

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 12th June 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 (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 and Suffolk Constabularies estimate that to retrieve all of the information you have requested would exceed cost in excess of £450 per force.

We have undertaken research of reported incidents using keywords such as 'clone', 'number plate', 'license plate', etc. This has returned a total of 331 reports which refer to cloned plates and

397 which refer to stolen plates. Some of these may be duplicated as they include both the term cloned and stolen. Looking at some of the reports they refer to plates 'not' being stolen or cloned or refer to previous calls/incidents. We would therefore need to review all of the reports to identify those relevant to your request.

It should also be noted that using keywords may not retrieve all relevant reports as it will depend on what terms have been used.

Even if we based our calculations on a minimum of 3 minutes each, this would exceed 36 hours. This would be in addition to the research already undertaken.

This would therefore 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 and Suffolk Constabularies as £450, and specifies that this sum equates to 18 hours work at a standard rate of £25 per hour, per force.

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.

Please see figures below for the number of Traffic Offence Reports issued for the offence of 'Registration Mark Fails to Confirm With Regulations'.

The Constabularies do not hold the details of any fines imposed at Court. A fixed penalty is £100.

Month	Paid	Prosecuted	Cancelled	Not Yet Completed	Total
NORFOLK - 2018					
January	7	-	-	-	7
February	23	2	-	-	25
March	14	3	1	-	18
April	14	-	1	-	15
May	10	2	1	-	13
June	4	1	-	-	5
July	10	1	-	-	11
August	11	1	2	-	14
September	7	-	-	-	7
October	8	4	1	-	13
November	5	1	1	-	7

December	15	3	1	-	19
NORFOLK - 2019					
January	10	4	1	-	15
February	7	2	2	-	11
March	15	-	1	-	16
April	21	5	-	-	26
May	16	2	1	-	19
June	9	1	1	-	11
July	17	5	-	-	22
August	15	5	-	-	20
September	32	5	3	-	40
October	18	3	2	-	23
November	13	5	-	-	18
December	13	2	-	1	16
NORFOLK - 2020					
January	16	4	-	1	21
February	20	1	3	4	28
March	28	-	-	10	38
SUFFOLK - 2018					
January	6	-	-	-	6
February	9	1	-	-	10
March	7	-	1	-	8
April	8	2	-	-	10
May	9	-	2	-	11
June	12	4	-	-	16
July	7	2	-	-	9
August	12	-	1	-	13
September	10	-	-	-	10
October	13	-	-	-	13
November	15	1	1	-	17
December	10	1	1	-	12
SUFFOLK - 2019					
January	13	2	-	-	15
February	24	1	-	-	25
March	20	2	1	-	23
April	11	2	1	-	14
May	13	2	2	-	17
June	14	4	2	-	20
July	24	1	-	-	25
August	20	6	-	-	26
September	18	2	1	-	21
October	18	2	-	-	20

November	28	3	-	-	31
December	17	7	-	1	25
	SUFFOLK - 2020				
January	8	1	-	-	9
February	14	3	2	5	24
March	13	-	-	7	20