



August 2020

Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 002613/20

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies on the 30th July 2020 in which you sought access to the following information:

Can you please give me the total number of road traffic incidents/accidents, that occurred in the past ten years, where the usage of a mobile device was the cause of the incidents/accidents.

Please could you break the data down in the following format:

- Total number of mobile caused road traffic incidents/accidents - broken down monthly from 2010- 2020 (closed available month)

For this report, I am seeking to discover whether the road traffic incidents including a mobile phone have changed over the given years within your constabulary.

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 4th August 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).

The Constabularies only collate statistical data relating to injury and fatal collisions. To identify non-injury collisions, which have involved the use of a mobile device, we would need to carry out a manual review of every recorded non-injury collision. Even for just one year this would require the review of thousands of reports for each Constabulary.

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 figures are for injury and fatal collisions, where the use of a mobile device has been recorded as a contributory factor. This does not dictate whether it was the main cause of the collision or not. As with all contributory factors, it is merely based on the Officer's opinion at the time of the collision.

YEAR / MONTH		NORFOLK	SUFFOLK
2010	January	2	1
	February	1	-
	April	1	1
	June	0	1
	July	1	1
	September	2	-
	November	2	-
2011	January	-	2
	February	-	2
	March	1	-
	May	-	2
	July	-	3
	August	2	1
	September	1	-
	October	1	-
	November	-	1
	December	2	-
2012	January	2	-
	February	2	-
	March	1	-
	April	-	1
	June	1	1
	July	1	2
	August	1	1

	September	2	-
	October	2	1
	November	-	1
2013	April	1	-
	May	-	1
	July	-	2
	August	-	2
	September	1	2
	October	1	1
2014	February	1	2
	March	2	-
	April	2	-
	May	-	1
	June	1	1
	July	1	2
	August	1	1
	September	1	2
	October	2	1
	November	1	-
	December	4	1
2015	February	1	-
	March	2	1
	May	3	-
	June	2	-
	August	-	2
	September	2	-
	November	1	2
2016	January	-	1
	February	1	-
	April	-	2
	May	1	-
	June	-	1
	July	1	1
	August	3	1
	September	4	-
	October	-	1
	November	1	1
	December	2	1
2017	January	1	2
	February	4	-

	March	2	1
	April	1	-
	May	4	-
	June	1	-
	July	1	1
	August	1	-
	September	2	2
	October	-	1
	November	3	2
	December	-	1
2018	January	1	1
	February	2	-
	May	1	-
	June	-	1
	July	1	1
	August	1	-
	September	3	-
	October	1	-
	November	1	-
December	-	1	
2019	February	1	1
	March	2	-
	May	1	-
	July	1	5
	August	2	-
	September	1	3
	October	1	1
	November	1	-
December	3	-	
2020	January	2	-
	February	1	-
	March	1	1
	June	-	1
	July	1	-