



NORFOLK
CONSTABULARY
Our Priority is You

Norfolk Constabulary

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Dear

Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 000279/16

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk Constabulary on the 19th January 2016 in which you sought access to the following information:

In the interests of pursuing a news story about a perceived increase in drink 'spiking' throughout the UK, I'm looking for information on the following queries:

- 1 Can you provide annual totals of the number of reports the force received of a person having their drink 'spiked' from 2010 to the end of 2015?
- 2 Can you provide annual totals of the number of arrests for 'spiking' a drink from 2010 to the end of 2015? (If there are no specific records of this, then please provide data for the most relevant offence).

Norfolk Constabulary holds information relevant to your request.

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.

The information you have requested is not held in any easily retrievable format. The Joint Performance and Analysis Department has undertaken research of calls made to the Contact and Control Room which include the words 'spike' or 'spiked'. This has returned 2,437 incident reports, each of which would need to be reviewed in order to see if they relate to your request.

Based on an estimate of 3 minutes each 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 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 & 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.

With regard to the second part of your request, JPAD researched the custody database using the same keywords. This has returned the following 2 arrest records:-

Year	Arrest Offence
2015	Administering a noxious substance
2015	Rape

This response will be published on the Norfolk Constabulary’s web-site www.norfolk.police.uk under the Freedom of Information pages at [Publication Scheme - Disclosure Logs](#).

Should you have any further queries concerning this request, please contact me quoting the reference number shown above.