



NORFOLK
CONSTABULARY
Our Priority is You

March 2017

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 002793/17

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk Constabulary on the 9th February 2017 in which you sought access to the following information:

How many reports were received of assaults on taxi drivers in 2014, 2015 and 2016 (calendar year)?

If possible please break the above down listing for each incident:

- Date
- Time
- Location
- Type of assault (physical or verbal)
- Whether or not injuries were sustained
- Whether there was an arrest (and how many arrests were made)
- Whether there was a charge brought (and how many people were charged)
- Whether those charged went to court
- The sentence received (if applicable)

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 (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 Constabulary estimates that to retrieve all of the information you have requested would exceed cost in excess of £450.

In order to establish what relevant information is held, we have contacted our Joint Performance and Analysis Department. They have undertaken research of recorded crimes and advised that to provide any accurate response would exceed the cost limit. They have looked at recorded crimes for the offence of Violence against the Person for the calendar year 2016 only. The victim occupation is not a mandatory field within the crime record. Of 29,534 violent crimes, 22,466 have no occupation recorded. The free text field of a report would hold details regarding the offence and may therefore detail whether the victim is a taxi driver and the incident occurred whilst carrying out that role.

This would therefore be a manual review process, requiring the review of thousands of crime reports each year. 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 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.

Whilst researching the crime system for 2016, JPAD identified 7 crimes where the victim’s occupation was recorded as a taxi driver or mini cab driver.

Date	HO Crime Sub Group	Offence	PC/District	Occupation 1	Occupation 2	Outcome Type
Jan 2016	VIOLENCE WITH INJURY	Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (ABH)	Norwich	Transport	Taxi Driver	Type 17 - Prosecution Time Limit Expired: Suspect Identified But Prosecution Time Limit Has Expired
Feb 2016	VIOLENCE WITHOUT INJURY	Racially or religiously aggravated common assault or beating	Norwich	Transport	Taxi Driver	Type 1 - Charged/Summonsed/ Postal Requisition
Feb 2016	VIOLENCE WITH INJURY	Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (ABH)	Broadland	Transport	Taxi Driver	Type 16 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties Prevent Further Action: Victim Does Not Support (Or Has Withdrawn Support From) Police Action
Apr 2016	VIOLENCE WITH INJURY	Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (ABH)	North Norfolk	Transport	Taxi Driver	Type 1 - Charged/Summonsed/ Postal Requisition

May 2016	VIOLENCE WITHOUT INJURY	Assault without Injury - Common assault and battery	South Norfolk	Transport	Taxi Driver	Type 16 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties Prevent Further Action: Victim Does Not Support (Or Has Withdrawn Support From) Police Action
Sep 2016	VIOLENCE WITHOUT INJURY	Racially or religiously aggravated common assault or beating	Broadland	Transport	Taxi Driver	Type 1 - Charged/Summoned/ Postal Requisition
Dec 2016	VIOLENCE WITH INJURY	Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (ABH)	North Norfolk	Transport	Taxi Driver	Type 18 - Investigation Complete; No Suspect Identified. Crime Investigated As Far As Reasonably Possible- Case Closed Pending Further Investigative Opportunities Becoming Available