



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

**REQUEST NUMBER:** FOI Request 002957-16

**REQUEST DETAILS:**

*“Details of the ten most expensive police investigations between January 2015 and June 2016, including the total cost, number of police involved in the case, the crime, date of the incident, equipment used (i.e. two tasers), whether it has been solved or a suspect caught, the result of any court action.”*

**RESPONSE:**

Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies have considered your request for information and our response is below.

*This response is correct as of 4 August 2016*

In relation to your request for information and in accordance with Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), this response serves as a formal notification of refusal for your request. The Constabularies do not hold, for the purposes of FOIA, all of the information you require in a retrievable format.

It is estimated that to attempt to retrieve all of the information you require would take a considerable amount of retrieval time, exceeding 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 2000 applies.

It is considered that to provide an answer to your request will take in excess of 36 hours to provide the information.

The information requested concerning specific details of the investigations is not centrally held by the Constabulary. It would not be possible to identify the number of officers assigned to any one operation and what equipment was used without reading through the files for each investigation. Considering the investigations provided are the most expensive, it would be fair to say the files would be extremely complex and vast. Although there are only a small number of investigations, there would need to be extensive research to locate the additional information requested.

This work would consist of manually trawling through hundreds of papers and files to establish those officers involved and what pieces of equipment were utilised to assist in the investigative process.

*Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies in complying with their statutory duty under sections 1 and 11 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to release the enclosed information will not breach the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. However, the rights of the copyright owner of the enclosed information will continue to be protected by law. Applications for the copyright owner's written permission to reproduce any part of the attached information should be addressed to the Information Compliance Manager, Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies, Falconers Chase, Wymondham, Norfolk, Norwich, NR18 0WW.*



Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 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, defines the ‘appropriate limit’ for the Constabularies as £450 and specifies that this sum equates to 18 hours work per force at a standard rate of £25 per hour. This equates to 36 hours of work, or £900, for joint responses.

In accordance with Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter serves as a refusal notice for this part of your request.

By requesting *all* information your request is too broad to be complied with within the limit imposed on Freedom of Information requests.

Although excess cost removes the Force’s obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your request, 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.

Information concerning the most expensive investigations can be extracted from the financial system, however relies solely on the investigation being assigned an operational name.

Should an operational name exist; there will potentially be additional costs that have not been captured within the relevant financial records, so the details provided are a guide only.

Costs of investigations are split between both Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies. Consequently, it is not possible to extrapolate information for an individual force.

The highest costs of investigations conducted by the Constabularies, which have been assigned a specific budget code, are as follows:

<b>Operational Name</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>Norfolk Cost</b>	<b>Suffolk Cost</b>
Op Cannington	£267,780	£151,296	£116,484
Op Stratton	£129,760	£73,314	£56,446
Op Seminar	£79,021	£44,884	£34,137
Op Enclose	£61,475	£34,733	£26,742
Op Rowley	£52,576	£29,705	£22,871

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Op Salt2	£45,469	£25,689	£19,780
Op Regal	£24,174	£13,658	£10,516
Op Tropic	£20,833	£11,770	£9,063
Op Doncaster	£20,615	£11,647	£8,967
Op Entrust	£11,940	£6,746	£5,194

Information relating to each operation is provided below, where available.

#### Op Cannington

<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/newsandevents/features/2016/operationcannington.aspx>

A police operation which led to the discovery of firearms and ammunition in Wyverstone, Suffolk. The suspect passed away prior to the conclusion of the case. One person was found guilty of Selling a prohibited weapon.

#### Op Stratton

Conspiracy to Murder from August 2015 – six suspects charged with Conspiracy to Murder - five convicted and awaiting sentencing, one awaiting trial

#### Op Seminar

Investigation into the murder of Peter and Sylvia Stuart in January 2016.

<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/newsandevents/appeals/2016/murderinvestigationweybread.aspx>

#### Op Enclose

Investigation into the murder of a homeless man in Norwich on 10.06.2015 – no suspects charged

#### Op Rowley

Investigation into the murder of a man in Great Yarmouth on 15.11.2015 – 2 individuals charged with Murder and Supplying Class A drugs and convicted; 2 individuals charged with Perverting the Course of Justice – Acquitted.

#### Op Salt

Investigation into the activities of a GP and former police surgeon – convicted of historically assaulting 13 female police recruits between 1991 and 2001 as well as rape of two girls between 1995 and 2002.

#### Op Regal

Investigation into the murder of a man in Leiston, Suffolk on 15.06.2015 – suspect charged with murder and entered Guilty Plea and sentenced to life imprisonment



Op Tropic

Investigation of a stranger rape that took place 11.05.2015 in Bury St Edmunds – suspect charged with rape, convicted and sentenced to 6 years 8 months

Op Doncaster

Investigation into the domestic murder of a woman in Felixstowe in April 2016 – suspect charged and currently remanded in custody, awaiting plea and trial

Op Entrust

Investigation into a death caused by a fire on board a British dredger off the shore of Great Yarmouth on 18.08 2015 – no charges made, awaiting inquest