



September 2019

## Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 003184/19

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

- 1 The number of road traffic accidents reported that involved animals/wildlife in 2017
- 2 A breakdown of the type of animal involved e.g. dog x 2, deer x 3, sheep x 4
- 3 The number of humans killed following road traffic accidents involving wildlife in 2017
- 4 The number of humans injured in road traffic accidents involving animals/wildlife in 2017
- 5 The number of road traffic accidents reported that involved animals/wildlife in 2018
- 6 A breakdown of the type of animal involved e.g. dog x 2, deer x 3, sheep x 4
- 7 The number of humans killed following road traffic accidents involving animals/wildlife in 2018
- 8 The number of humans injured in road traffic accidents involving animals/wildlife in 2018

## Response to your Request

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).

Research has been undertaken of recorded collision cases and we can advise the following:-

Between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019, there were 1,320 damage only road traffic collisions recorded in Suffolk. There is no specific search field for animals or wildlife on the database where these are recorded. Therefore, a manual review of each collision file would be required. This system also records non-injury collision data for Norfolk, so the same process would apply.

Based on the above, carrying out this research would be an enormous task. This 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 the Constabularies obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, we have supplied information, relative 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.

Research has been undertaken of reported injury collisions involving an animal. Please see figures below:-

<b>Fatal</b>	<b>Serious</b>	<b>Slight</b>	<b>Animal</b>
<b>NORFOLK - 2017</b>			
0	5	10	12 x deer, 1 x horse, 1 x pheasant, 1 x rabbit
<b>NORFOLK - 2018</b>			
0	6	6	9 x deer, 1 x horse, 1 x rabbit, 1 x cat
<b>SUFFOLK - 2017</b>			
0	1	8	9 x deer, 1 x dog
<b>SUFFOLK – 2018</b>			
0	2	9	5 x deer, 1 x horse, 1 x pheasant, 1 x rabbit, 1 x cat, 1 x dog, 1 x pigeon