



**NORFOLK**  
CONSTABULARY  
*Our Priority is You*

February 2020

### **Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 000333/20**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Norfolk Constabulary on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020 in which you sought access to the following information:

I would like a map (or a list) of where each individual recorded incident (as outlined below) occurred in Great Yarmouth by street name/specific location, in accordance with the FOI Act 2000.

- Where have people been caught with possession/ arrested/ charged for the dealing, selling or sharing of cannabis, or the intent to sell/supply cannabis in Great Yarmouth?
- Where have fines been issued for possession in Great Yarmouth? (in terms of the person's street, without revealing any specific personal information)?
- Where have reports/complaints been filed of people smoking cannabis in public places (including public transport) in Great Yarmouth?
- Where have anti-social behavioural incidents occurred where cannabis was involved in Great Yarmouth?

The time frame I would request is a month-by-month breakdown between Jan 2017 and Jan 2020, or an overview of the entire period if this could be combined in an interactive map/format (whichever is easiest).

Please can you provide the information as a spreadsheet or interactive map. If attached as a spreadsheet, could this be an editable one rather than pdf/document of that spreadsheet.

### **Response to your Request**

The response provided below is correct as of 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

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

Research has been undertaken of records held by Norfolk Constabulary relating to crimes, arrests and reports of ASB in Great Yarmouth. With regards to crimes we have looked at those in the Great Yarmouth District and with regards to ASB, those that have occurred in Great Yarmouth town. For arrests, it is not possible to extract those relevant to Great Yarmouth only, therefore the analysts have provided figures for those booked into Great Yarmouth Police Investigation Centre (PIC). These would therefore not relate solely to arrests in Great Yarmouth.

From the above research we can advise that there were a total of 398 crime reports relating to cannabis offences, in the Great Yarmouth District, during the period requested.

There were 200 ASB incident reports that contain the word 'cannabis' in Great Yarmouth Town. It would be necessary to review these in order to determine those where cannabis is relevant to anti-social behaviour.

From the above, we can advised that there were 924 custody records in relation to class B or C drugs for the Great Yarmouth PIC. Whilst some of these refer specifically to cannabis, the remainder would need to be reviewed to see which relate to the possession or supply of cannabis. All would need to be reviewed to see if the offence occurred in Great Yarmouth.

Due to the above additional work, which would need to be undertaken, 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 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.

The Constabulary is unable to produce a map of recorded crimes. We have, however, provided you with the number of recorded crimes in the Great Yarmouth District, by month for 2017 to 2019 below:

Month	Having possession of a controlled drug - Class B - Cannabis	Possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply - Class B - Cannabis	Possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply a class B controlled drug	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug - Class B - Cannabis	Total
<b>2017</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>13</b>	-	<b>3</b>	<b>111</b>
January	9	1	-	-	10
February	7	2	-	-	9
March	10	-	-	-	10
April	7	-	-	-	7
May	4	1	-	1	6
June	13	3	-	-	16
July	12	2	-	-	14
August	7	2	-	2	11

September	11	-	-	-	11
October	9	1	-	-	10
November	3	1	-	-	4
December	3	-	-	-	3
<b>2018</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>112</b>
January	6	1	-	-	7
February	8	-	-	2	10
March	8	1	-	-	9
April	10	-	-	-	10
May	9	3	-	-	12
June	12	-	-	-	12
July	6	2	-	-	8
August	13	2	-	-	15
September	9	2	-	-	11
October	8	1	-	-	9
November	1	1	-	1	3
December	6	-	-	-	6
<b>2019</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>175</b>
January	11	1	-	2	14
February	11	5	-	-	16
March	10	-	-	1	11
April	7	1	-	-	8
May	11	1	-	-	12
June	20	-	1	-	21
July	19	2	-	-	21
August	12	2	-	-	14
September	15	2	-	-	17
October	9	1	-	1	11
November	14	1	-	1	16
December	14	-	-	-	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>398</b>