



October 2016

Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 003530/16

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk Constabulary on the 26th September 2016 in which you sought access to the following information:

The number of reports of hacking in your constabulary from 1st September 2015 to 1st September 2016. Each crime must have happened within your constituency.

The number of recorded crimes of 'computer hacking' between 1st September 2015 and 1st September 2016.

Please include a breakdown stating:

- * the month/year the crime was recorded
- * a summary of the allegation

For the purposes of this request please consider 'computer hacking' to mean the following Home Office codes:

053/87: Unauthorised access to computer material

053/34: Unauthorised access with intent to commit or facilitate commission of further offences

053/35: Unauthorised acts with intent to impair or with recklessness as to impairing, operation of computer, etc

053/55: Making, supplying or obtaining articles for use in offence under Sections 1 or 3 of the Computer Misuse Act

Norfolk Constabulary holds information relevant to your request.

Response to your Request

Norfolk Constabulary has located the following information as relevant to your request.

Month/Year	Offence Category	Summary
April 2016	Making, supplying or obtaining articles for use in offence under sections 1 or 3	Delivery address & item details on order altered by person known to the victim
June 2016	Unauthorised acts with intent to repair or recklessness as to impairing, operation of computer, etc	Server has been compromised by showing the user a text document advising the user that all files had been locked, in order to release the files then payment needs to be sent
August 2016	Making, supplying or obtaining articles for use in offence under sections 1 or 3	Exempt section 30

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires that Norfolk Constabulary, when refusing to provide information (because the information is exempt) is to provide you, the applicant, with a refusal notice which:-

- a. States that fact;
- b. Specifies the exemption(s) in question and;
- c. States (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption(s) applies.

The information is exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemptions:-

- **Section 30(1) - Investigations**

Section 30 is a class based qualified exemption and requires the consideration of a public interest test.

Section 30 – factors favouring disclosure

There is a public interest in the way in which the Constabulary carries out investigations into these types of offences. Providing the details would ensure that the public are in possession of information that allow for accurate public debate. Where the public are more aware of these types of crimes, they may be less likely to fall victim to these types of offences and may come forward with additional information that may assist the police.

Investigations are carried out at the expense of public funds and can be expensive, requiring considerable resources.

Section 30 – factors against disclosure

Providing further details of a current enquiry would hinder the ongoing investigation. The information would be of significant interest to those involved and could assist them in avoiding detection. They may also take steps to destroy any evidence. This would result in the need for additional funds and resources to be allocated to the investigation and would decrease the likelihood of a successful prosecution.

Balance Test

There is a public interest in the way in which the Constabulary carries out these types of investigations and how public funds are allocated. The Constabulary would not, however, disclose information under the Freedom of Information Act which would hinder any ongoing enquiries and assist those involved to avoid detection.

Therefore at this time, it is our opinion that for these reasons the balancing test for disclosing these details, is not made out. In accordance with section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000), this letter serves as a Refusal Notice for this part of your request by virtue of the exemption at section 30(1)(a) of the Act.