



November 2019

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 003777/19

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies on the 18th October 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

Please could you provide me with a full list of motoring incidents which were a result of fatigued and/or tired drivers in your area, monthly from 2014 to 2019. Please could this information be broken down into the following categories:

- The number of incidents per month between 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019
- A count of actions taken per annum - for example, £9,000 in fines and 30 licence suspensions were issued in 2015

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 21st October 2019.

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).

With regard to part 1 of your request, it is not possible to retrieve this information within the cost limit. It would be a mammoth task to review all non-injury collision reports in order to see if any refer to fatigue being a contributory factor.

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.

The following figures have been supplied by the Roads Policing Unit. They are based on injury or fatal collisions only where the officer's initial opinion is that fatigue may be a contributory factor.

Month	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (to 30/09)
NORFOLK						
January	1	4	0	1	7	4
February	2	2	2	3	2	2
March	2	2	2	2	0	5
April	4	9	2	1	2	4
May	4	4	3	8	5	4
June	1	2	2	5	5	3
July	6	5	6	3	2	4
August	5	3	3	4	8	4
September	3	4	5	2	1	1
October	3	3	4	6	2	-
November	6	1	0	5	2	-
December	9	6	3	4	6	-
TOTAL	46	45	32	44	42	31
SUFFOLK						
January	2	0	0	3	0	5
February	3	0	1	4	4	0
March	1	3	1	4	2	1
April	3	3	0	1	4	1
May	2	1	2	2	3	3
June	4	2	4	3	3	2
July	4	3	3	5	2	8
August	3	3	4	2	1	0
September	4	0	2	2	3	2
October	2	3	3	1	4	-
November	4	2	4	2	5	-
December	5	1	3	3	2	-
TOTAL	37	21	27	32	33	22