



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

7<sup>th</sup> November 2016

**Freedom of Information Request Reference N<sup>o</sup>: FOI 003801/16**

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk Constabulary on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2016 in which you sought access to the following information:

- 1 How serious is the problem in your Force area?
- 2 How do we collate the figures?
- 3 Number of dog thefts in the past five years (2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and then year to date – calendar years)
- 4 Is there guidance to officers on how to record dog thefts
- 5 Is there a dedicated dog theft officer and if so could their contact details be provided
- 6 How many dogs were returned to their owners?
- 7 How many crimes reached the courts?

Norfolk Constabulary holds information relevant to your request.

**Response to your Request**

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

Q1 This information is not held by the Constabulary. The Freedom of Information Act provides the public with a right to submit requests for the publication of recorded information held by a public authority. The Constabulary is only obliged to consider the publication of recorded information held at the time of receiving a request for that information, and we are not obliged to create information in order to provide a response to a Freedom of Information request.

Q2 & 4 There is no specific guidance regarding the recording of dog thefts. Crimes and incidents are recorded in accordance with the National Crime Recording Standards, the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime and the National Standard for Incident Recording.

Dogs and other animals are recorded within the property field of the relevant crime reports.

Q3 The following refers to the number of recorded crimes and *not* the number of stolen dogs, as there could be multiple dogs on one report. The results are based on the item stolen being recorded as either 'dog' or 'puppy'.

Q5 There is no dedicated officer.

Q6 The following figures are for crimes where the dog or puppy has been recovered.

Policing District	No. Of Reported Dog Theft Crimes						
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Grand Total
Breckland	3	4	4	2	4	2	19
Broadland	2	0	0	0	2	1	5
Great Yarmouth	6	1	0	3	6	1	17
Kings Lynn	2	2	6	8	7	3	28
North Norfolk	1	1	0	2	0	4	8
Norwich	6	1	2	7	11	3	30
South Norfolk	4	1	4	2	8	3	22
Grand Total	24	10	16	24	38	17	129

Property Status	No of Dogs						
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Grand Total
Recovered	7	1	3	4	8	2	25
Grand Total	7	1	3	4	8	2	25

Q7 Statistical information regarding convictions and court outcomes is held by the HM Courts & Tribunals Service.