



NORFOLK
CONSTABULARY
Our Priority is You

March 2017

Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 003919/17

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk Constabulary on the 27th February 2017 in which you sought access to the following information:

- 1 How many motor accidents have there been in your area in the last five years?
- 2 How many motor accidents have there been in your area in the last five years that can be attributed to someone using their mobile phone behind the wheel?
- 3 How many people have been penalised (fined/ points put on license) in your area for using their mobile phone at the wheel?
- 4 How many people of these incidents resulted in injury or fatality?

Norfolk Constabulary holds information relevant to your request.

Response to your Request

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.

The information you have requested in part 2 is not held in any easily retrievable format. It would be necessary to review the details of each non-injury collision report to see if the use of a mobile phone whilst driving has been a contributory factor. There have been over 13,000 non-injury collisions recorded by the Constabulary during the period requested.

Therefore reviewing each of these to see what relevant information is held, would significantly exceed the appropriate limit for dealing with a Freedom of Information request, in terms of cost, 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.

Q1 Figures in the following table are for injury and non-injury collisions recorded by the Constabulary between 2012 and 2016.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Fatal	34	37	34	33	33	171
Serious	269	299	306	305	338	1517
Slight	1467	1440	1542	1411	1489	7349
Non-injury	2554	2462	2699	2910	3013	13638
Total	4324	4238	4581	4659	4873	22675

Q3 Please see below the number of fixed penalties issued for driving whilst using a mobile phone.

Year	Total Offences
2012	1660
2013	1122
2014	720
2015	2104
2016	1824

Q4 The figures in the following table are for injury or fatal collisions where the use of a mobile phone has been recorded on the collision report as a contributory factor.

	Number
Fatal	7
Serious	16
Slight	32