



December 2016

**Freedom of Information Request Reference N<sup>o</sup>: FOI 004083/16**

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk Constabulary on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016 in which you sought access to the following information:

Part I – all crime\*

- 1 Please state the total number of crimes\* reported to your force in each of the following calendar years: a) 2012, b) 2013, c) 2014, d) 2015 and e) 2016 so far.
- 2 Please state the total number of reported crimes that entered the 'crime screening process' to decide whether they are suitable for further investigation in each of the following calendar years: a) 2012, b) 2013, c) 2014, d) 2015 and e) 2016 so far.
- 3 For each yearly total in question 2 (a-e), please state the total number of crimes that were 'screened out' after the screening process - i.e. no further investigation (if there are outstanding decisions, please also state the total number for which the decision has not yet been taken).

ALL CRIME 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 so far

- 1 Total reported
- 2 Total screened
- 3 Total screen out

Part II – all burglary\*\*

- 1 Please state the total number of burglaries reported to your force in each of the following calendar years: a) 2012, b) 2013, c) 2014, d) 2015 and e) 2016 so far.
- 2 Please state the total number of reported burglaries that entered the 'crime screening process' to decide whether they are suitable for further investigation in each of the following calendar years: a) 2012, b) 2013, c) 2014, d) 2015 and e) 2016 so far.
- 3 For each yearly total in question 2 (a-e), please state the total number of reported burglaries that were 'screened out' after the screening process - i.e. no further investigation (if there are outstanding decisions, please also state the total number for which the decision has not yet been taken).

ALL BURGLARY 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 so far

- 1 Total reported
- 2 Total screened
- 3 Total screen out

Part III – all theft\*\*\*

- 1 Please state the total number of thefts reported to your force in each of the following calendar years: a) 2012, b) 2013, c) 2014, d) 2015 and e) 2016 so far.
- 2 Please state the total number of reported thefts that entered the 'crime screening process' to decide whether they are suitable for further investigation in each of the following calendar years: a) 2012, b) 2013, c) 2014, d) 2015 and e) 2016 so far.

- 3 For each yearly total in question 2 (a-e), please state the total number of reported thefts that were 'screened out' after the screening process - i.e. no further investigation (if there are outstanding decisions, please also state the total number for which the decision has not yet been taken).

	ALL THEFT	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016 so far
1	Total reported					
2	Total screened					
3	Total screen out					

\* Please include all crimes reported to your force

\*\* Please include all burglary offences reported to your force – i.e. all listed under the offence group 'Burglary' in the Home Office offence classification index (codes: 28A, 28B, 28C, 28D, 29, 30A, 30B, 31)

\*\*\*Please include all theft offences reported to your force – i.e. all listed under the offence group 'Theft' in the Home Office offence classification index (codes: 35, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 46, 47, 49, 49A)

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 (2000), 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 of the information you have requested would exceed cost in excess of £450.

In order to establish what information is held relevant to your request, we have contacted our Joint Performance and Analysis Department. A new crime recording database was introduced in October 2015 and the information you have requested cannot be easily retrieved. It is not possible to electronically extract the number of crimes which have been 'screened out' and each crime would have to be manually reviewed.

Therefore this would require the review of thousands of crimes which have been recorded since 20<sup>th</sup> October 2015. Based on a minimum of 2 minutes per crime, this would 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 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.

### Part 1 – All Crime

Year	Total Crimes
2012	40,075
2013	39,617
2014	45,657
2015	49,815
2016	42,165
Total	217,329

Year	Crimes Entered Crime Screening Process
2012	25,068
2013	26,447
2014	31,129
2015	26,035 (to 19 Oct)
Total	108,679

Year	Crimes Screened Out
2012	21,555
2013	18,736
2014	24,158
2015	27,249 (to 19 Oct)
Total	91,698

### Part 2 - Burglary

The figures include Burglary Dwelling & Burglary Non-Dwelling

Year	Total Crimes
2012	3,824
2013	3,742
2014	3,504
2015	3,747
2016	3,193
Total	18,010

Year	Crimes Entered Crime Screening Process
2012	2,680

2013	2,901
2014	2,779
2015	2,112 (to 19 Oct)
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,472</b>

Year	Crimes Screened Out
2012	1,601
2013	1,231
2014	1,405
2015	2,048 (to 19 Oct)
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,285</b>

### Part 3 - Theft

The figures include theft of and theft from a motor vehicle.

Year	Total Crimes
2012	14,365
2013	13,673
2014	14,099
2015	13,710
2016	8,704
<b>Total</b>	<b>64,551</b>

Year	Crimes Entered Crime Screening Process
2012	8,752
2013	9,176
2014	9,719
2015	7,371 (to 19 Oct)
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,018</b>

Year	Crimes Screened Out
2012	7,684
2013	6,125
2014	7,172
2015	8,281 (to 19 Oct)
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,262</b>