



NORFOLK
CONSTABULARY
Our Priority is You

January 2019

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 000040/19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Norfolk Constabulary on the 3rd January 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

As I understand it, there is a category on the police system for officers to tick when people are taken to hospital via police car.

For 2017 and 2018, I would like to request the number of people who were taken to hospital via police car please.

If possible, the location of where they were taken from and which hospital they were taken to would be great, but if that is not doable then please disregard this point.

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.

Norfolk Constabulary did, for a period of time, use a flagging system to highlight incidents on their command and control system, where police had attended with an ambulance. This was not always to flag incidents where there would be a conveyance. To review all of those incidents in order to respond to your request would be a significant task which would exceed the cost 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 FOIA 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 and 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.

Norfolk Constabulary does have some data available which may be of assistance. The Constabulary collated the number of conveyances for December 2017. Since January 2018, the process has changed within the Contact and Control Room. The Control Room Inspector may record occasions where they perceive transportation of a person hospital, or place of safety, was felt to reflect that police were required to cover a transport option which should have been addressed by another agency or partner.

They do not record all conveyances, nor are all conveyances brought to their attention.

Additionally, not all of the cases relate to transportation by an officer. In some isolated cases, alternate transport was identified, for example by family or friends. These notes are formally recorded for review purposes.

There will always be occasions where emergency service responders will assist colleagues from other agencies in order to manage the risk to a person or persons. This could be due to the current demand faced by a specific agency or the relative proximity of partner resources to the situation. In any case, there will be an ongoing daily dialogue between the Norfolk emergency services control rooms, as well as regular contact between the respective management teams, when incidents of note require further discussion.

Figures for December 2017 have been extracted from a previous FOI response and are provided below:-

Date	Number of Transports
05/12/2017	2
06/12/2017	1
15/12/2017	2
16/12/2017	1
18/12/2017	2
19/12/2017	2
21/12/2017	1
27/12/2017	1
30/12/2017	2
31/12/2017	3

Please see below details which have been identified as relevant to your request since January 2018:-

Date	Number of Transports
06/01/2018	1
20/01/2018	1
28/01/2018	1
03/02/2018	3
04/02/2018	1
09/02/2018	1
15/02/2018	1
17/02/2018	1

21/02/2018	1
02/03/2018	1
03/03/2018	2
07/03/2018	1
08/03/2018	1
11/03/2018	1
12/03/2018	1
15/03/2018	2
23/03/2018	1
24/03/2018	1
01/04/2018	1
18/04/2018	1
08/05/2018	1
09/05/2018	1
10/05/2018	1
15/05/2018	1
27/05/2018	1
28/05/2018	1
30/05/2018	2
31/05/2018	1
02/06/2018	1
04/06/2018	1
05/06/2018	1
08/06/2018	3
10/06/2018	1
13/06/2018	1
14/06/2018	1
19/06/2018	1
20/06/2018	1
24/06/2018	1
28/06/2018	1
07/07/2018	1
08/07/2018	1
21/07/2018	2
26/07/2018	3
27/07/2018	1
28/07/2018	1
29/07/2018	1
30/07/2018	2
31/07/2018	3
01/08/2018	1
07/08/2018	1

08/08/2018	1
14/08/2018	1
16/08/2018	1
17/08/2018	1
23/08/2018	1
25/08/2018	1
31/08/2018	2
03/09/2018	1
06/09/2018	1
14/09/2018	1
15/09/2018	1
17/09/2018	2
18/09/2018	1
25/09/2018	2
26/09/2018	1
28/09/2018	1
05/10/2018	2
15/10/2018	5
22/10/2018	1
27/10/2018	1
02/11/2018	2
10/11/2018	1
12/11/2018	1
15/11/2018	1
25/11/2018	1
27/11/2018	1
29/11/2018	1
03/12/2018	1
05/12/2018	1
13/12/2018	2
16/12/2018	1