



December 2019

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 004195/19

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies on the 20th November 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

- 1 Does your police force use spit hoods on suspects? If yes -
- 2 Does your force use them only on suspects in custody or also in public places?
- 3 How many times has your force used a spit hood every month from January 2016 to November 2019?
- 4 For each time a spit hood was used, can you please highlight whether it was used in custody or in public?
- 5 For each time a spit hood was used, can you please share the age of the person the spit hood was used on?

If it fits within the time and cost limits can you also please answer the questions below:

- 6 For each time a spit hood was used, can you please highlight how many times a person was injured as a result of it being used?
- 7 For each time a spit hood was used, can you please highlight whether it was used on a person judged to have a mental illness?

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 25th November 2019.

Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies have considered your request and our response is below.

Q1 Yes, the Constabularies use Spit Guards on suspects.

Q2 Spit guards are used in custody and by patrol officers.

Statistical information regarding the use of spit guards, up to February 2019, is published on the Suffolk Constabulary Disclosure Log therefore section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act is engaged.

Under Section 21(1) of the Freedom of Information Act (2000), public authorities are not required to provide information that is reasonably accessible to the public by other means, in this case via the Suffolk website, therefore in accordance with Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000), this serves as a Refusal Notice for these parts of your request.

Please use the links below to access the relevant information:-

<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/sites/suffolk/files/000570-19 - use of spit guards.pdf>
https://www.suffolk.police.uk/sites/suffolk/files/000570-19 - suffolk_data.pdf
https://www.suffolk.police.uk/sites/suffolk/files/000570-19 - norfolk_data.pdf

Q3 Number of times a spit guard has been used each month in 2019:-

MONTH	Number
NORFOLK	
January	8
February	12
March	6
April	4
May	10
June	11
July	4
August	6
September	4
October	5
November	2
SUFFOLK	
January	3
February	2
March	2
April	2
May	2
June	3
July	6
August	10
September	1
October	6
November	8

Q4 The below figures are for all years requested.

LOCATION	NORFOLK	SUFFOLK
Ambulance	3	1
Dwelling	52	19
Football Stadium	1	-
Hospital	5	8
Hospital – Mental	10	5
Licensed Premises	5	2
Mental Health Setting	1	1
Motor Vehicle	6	1
Police Station – Custody	65	24
Police Station – Other	5	-
Police Vehicle – No Cage	4	1
Police Vehicle – Prisoner Cage	1	5

Public Transport	1	2
Retail Premises	10	4
Street – rural/countryside	30	5
Street – urban/towncentre	166	66
Other	19	2
Not Recorded	-	10

Q5 The ages of persons, where a spit guard has been used, have not been recorded consistently during the period requested. Please see below figures for 2019:-

Age Range	NORFOLK	SUFFOLK
11-17	5	5
18-34	41	30
35-49	17	8
50-64	7	1
Not Recorded	2	1

Q6 Information is not collated regarding any injuries that may have occurred as a result of using a spit guard. To review every incident or detention record would exceed the cost limit.

Q7

2019	NORFOLK	SUFFOLK
Mental Health marker	33	29