



NORFOLK
CONSTABULARY
Our Priority is You

December 2016

Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 004210/16

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk Constabulary on the 21st November 2016 in which you sought access to the following information:

Please could you provide through a Freedom Of Information request the following information held by Norfolk Constabulary and relating to Theatre Street, Rampant Horse Street, Chapel Field East and Chapel Field North in Norwich.

Request 1) How many complaints / concerns relating to the narrowed signposted restriction (619 tsrgd) on Theatre street leading to Rampant Horse Street have been received?

Request 2) How many complaints / concerns relating to the bus lane on Rampant Horse Street have been received since CCTV enforcement began?

Request 3) What is the offence and maximum fine for a non permitted vehicle entering a restricted road which is signposted with a Motor Vehicles Prohibited TSRGD 619 plate such as that on Theatre Street?

Request 4) What authority(s) other than Norfolk Constabulary can enforce the offence determined in request 3 concerning the restriction on Theatre Street / Rampant Horse Street?

Request 5) How many cautions/warnings have been given to drivers relating to the offence determined in request 3 and concerning the restriction on Theatre Street / Rampant Horse Street which is signposted with a Motor Vehicles Prohibited TSRGD 619 plate?

Request 6) How many penalty notices and/or charges have been administered to drivers relating to the offence determined in request 3 and concerning the restriction on Theatre Street / Rampant Horse Street which is signposted with a Motor Vehicles Prohibited TSRGD 619 plate?

Request 7) How many drivers have successfully appealed against penalty notices and/or charges administered for the offence determined in request 3 and concerning the restriction on Theatre Street / Rampant Horse Street which is signposted with a sign Motor Vehicles Prohibited TSRGD 619 plate?

Request 8) Please can you provide information/statistics relating to road traffic incidents/accidents occurring along Chapel Field North, Chapel Field East and Theatre Street for as many years as possible?

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 relation to parts 1, 2 and 5 of your request is not held in any central location and is not easily retrievable. With regard to part 5 specifically, an officer may stop a vehicle and give the driver a verbal warning but this would only be recorded within their personal pocket note books (PNBs) and would not be centrally collated elsewhere.

Therefore to provide you with any relevant information held it would be necessary for all officers to review their PNB entries. There are approximately 1,500 police officers within the Constabulary, therefore this would significantly exceed the appropriate 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.

Similarly, complaints or concerns could be received by the Constabulary via letter, email, telephone call or direct to an officer or member of police staff. This information is therefore not held in any easily retrievable format and therefore could not be located within the 18 hour cost limit.

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.

- Q3 The offence of ‘use a prohibited vehicle on a road subject to a restriction’ is a £50 non-endorseable fixed penalty. If a case goes to court, a magistrate can impose a fine of up to £1000.
- Q4 The Norwich City Council has camera enforcement in this area and may be able to provide additional information.
- Q6 Since 26th April 2015, 7 notices have been issued by the Constabulary. All of these were on Theatre Street for using a prohibited vehicle on a road subject to a restriction.

Q7 None, all of the 7 penalty notices were paid.

Q8 The following information has been provided by the Roads Policing Unit and refers to recorded injury collisions only. The records are from 01/01/2005 to date.

