



April 2017

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 004402/17

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk Constabulary on the 3rd April 2017 in which you sought access to the following information:

- 1 Has your force implemented the new definition of missing that is contained in the new Approved Professional Practice on missing persons published end of 2016? (yes/ no)
- 2 If the new definition has not yet been implemented, please, state when the new APP will be implemented in your police force area?
- 3 If the new definition has been implemented please provide the following information for the period of time between 1 January and 31 March 2017
- 4 In the period of time from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016 did your police force use separate definitions of 'missing' and 'absent' children? (Yes/No)

Questions on children categorised as missing

- 5 In the period of time from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016 what was the total number of a) children under the age of 18 b) episodes related to children under the age of 18 reported as missing to your police?
- 6 Please provide information in the table below for the period of time from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016 related to children reported as missing to your police and categorised as 'missing'
- 7 Please provide information in the table below for the period of time from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016 related to children reported as missing to your police and categorised as 'absent'
- 8 Does your risk assessment at the time the child is reported as missing includes a question on whether a child is
- 9 Is there a defined maximum period of time that a case can be classified as 'absent' or 'no apparent risk' before being upgraded to 'missing'? If yes, what is the maximum period?
- 10 What was the longest period of time that an individual a) male child and b) female child was classified as 'absent' in the period of time from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016 in your police force?
- 11 What is the average length of time cases remain classified as 'absent' in your police force area?

- 12 What was the highest number of times an individual a) male child and b) female child was classified as 'absent' in the period of time from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017?
- 13 For children who have been recorded as absent what is the average number of times they have been classified as absent for in the period of time from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017?
- 14 Do children classified as 'absent' or 'no apparent risk' receive a safe and well check on return in your police area?

Norfolk Constabulary holds information relevant to your request.

Response to your Request

Norfolk Constabulary has located the following information as relevant to your request.

- Q1 No, the new definition has not been implemented.
- Q2 The new definition is currently being reviewed for incorporation into the force policy. It is estimated that it will be 3 months when this will be implemented.
- Q3 Not applicable.
- Q4 During 2016 the Constabulary has used separate definitions of 'missing' and 'absent' children.
- Q5a 707 children aged under 18 recorded as missing.
- Q5b 1667 episodes of children under 18 missing.

The figures provided below for questions 6 and 7 have been extracted from the COMPACT Missing Person database. You will see that the figures do not add up to the total figures but these have been double-checked and we have not been able to identify what has caused this discrepancy.

Q6

	Children under the age of 18 categorised as 'missing' from 1 January to 31 December 2016	'Missing' episodes related to children under the age of 18
Total number	707	1667*
Total girls	348	872
Total boys	355	794
Total girls 'missing' from family home	277	530
Total girls 'missing' from care settings	70	342
Total boys 'missing' from family home	267	446
Total boys 'missing' from care settings	84	348

*includes one child who has not been categorised as either male or female.

Q7

	Children under the age of 18 categorised as 'absent' from 1 January to 31 December 2016	'Absent' episodes related to children under the age of 18
Total number	246	413
Total girls	100	139
Total boys	149	274
Total girls 'absent' from family home	77	93
Total girls 'absent' from care settings	22	46
Total boys 'absent' from family home	101	124
Total boys 'absent' from care settings	49	150

Q8 Risk Assessment

	Yes	No
a) at risk of sexual exploitation	X	
b) at risk of being groomed on line or off line		X
c) at risk of criminal exploitation		X
d) at risk of gang involvement		X
e) at risk due to mental health issues	X	

Q9 There is no maximum period of time but this must be reviewed every 4 hours maximum.

Q10 Longest period of time:-

A Male Child 467 days 21 hours 53 minutes
 B Female Child 405 days 21 hours 31 minutes

Q11 Average figures are not held.

Q12 Highest number of times:-

A Male Child 7
 B Female Child 10

Q13 The average number of times is not held.

Q14 The force policy states:-

Absent Found

2.6 A person can be updated as found when absent when they have arrived at a place they are required or expected to be, or they have been seen by a family member or a professional and they are reported to be safe.