



NORFOLK
CONSTABULARY
Our Priority is You

February 2020

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 000455/20

I write in connection with your request for information received by Norfolk Constabulary on the 29th January 2020 in which you sought access to the following information:

- 1 The number of stalking incidents for each calendar year between and including 2009 to 2019. I would also like to obtain the data on the gender of the victims.

I would be grateful if you could include both the number of crimes and incidents separately. If possible, I would like the data in the form of an excel sheet.

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 5th February 2020.

Norfolk Constabulary has considered your request and our response is below.

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.

Research has been undertaken of recorded incidents and there have been 9,798 reports which have an opening code of 'Harassment', between 2009 and 2019. There is not a separate code for reports of incidents of stalking. The only way to identify those relating to stalking, would be by reading through the details of the report. Due to the number of incidents, based on an estimate of 5 minutes each, this would exceed 800 hours.

This would therefore significantly 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 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.

Crimes relating to the offence of stalking only became a separate category in 2013. Figures from that time have been provided below:

Number of Crimes - STALKING	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Harassment - Pursue course of conduct in breach of Sec 1 (1) which amounts to stalking	-	-	10	31	56	144	115	356
Pursue course of conduct in breach of Sec 1 (1) which amounts to stalking	3	17	13	-	-	-	-	33
Stalking involving fear of violence	4	8	4	7	19	34	25	101
Stalking involving serious alarm/distress	-	-	5	21	50	78	94	248
Stalking involving serious alarm/distress	5	16	11	-	-	-	-	32
Total	12	41	43	59	125	256	234	770

Victim Gender	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Female	9	35	39	49	99	219	204	654
Male	3	7	4	7	20	33	27	101
Not Recorded	-	-	-	3	3	3	2	11
Total	12	42	43	59	122	255	233	766