



NORFOLK
CONSTABULARY
Our Priority is You

May 2017

Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 004566/17

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk Constabulary on the 11th April 2017 in which you sought access to the following information:

- 1 Would you tell me how many children and the age of the youngest child your force has arrested or questioned on suspicion of firearm-related offences in 2015, 2016 and so far in 2017.
- 2 Would you tell me how many children and the age of the youngest child your force has arrested or questioned on knife-related offence in 2015, 2016 and so far in 2017
- ('Questioned' is mentioned in this request so we include cases involving children below the age of criminality)
- 3 Would you tell me the number of firearms seized in 2014, 2015, 2016 and up until April 2017.
- 4 Would you tell me the number of knives seized in 2014, 2015, 2016 and up until April 2017.
- 5 Can you also tell me how many arrests/questioned for firearms were aged nine, ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen and seventeen.
- 6 Can you tell me how many arrests/questioned for knife-related offences were aged nine, ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen and seventeen

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.

In order to establish what relevant information is held, we have contacted both our Joint Performance and Analysis Department (JPAD) and our Property Administration. JPAD has advised that identifying the numbers of under 18s who have been questioned only regarding an offence involving a weapon would exceed the cost limit. Relevant information could be contained within crime records or officers Pocket Note Books. There is no simple process to identify this information and it would involve a manual trawl of these records.

This process would significantly exceed the appropriate limit for dealing with a Freedom of Information request, in terms of cost, 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.

The following information has been extracted from the Constabulary’s custody system by researching arrests for the possession of weapons.

2015							
Arrest Offence	Age						Total
	11	13	14	15	16	17	
Bladed Article in Public Place	0	1	2	0	3	7	13
Offensive Weapon	0	0	0	0	1	4	5
Possession of Offensive Weapon	1	0	0	1	5	1	8
Possession of Firearms Offences	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Possession of Knife/Bladed Article	0	2	0	0	1	0	3
Possession of Offensive Weapon	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Grand Total	1	3	2	1	10	15	32

2016							
Arrest Offence	Age						Total
	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Possession of Firearms Offences	0	0	1	2	1	1	5
Possession of Knife/Bladed Article	1	2	1	3	5	4	16
Possession of Offensive Weapon	0	1	0	2	5	1	9
Grand Total	1	3	2	7	11	6	30

2017						
Arrest Offence	Age					Total
	13	14	15	16	17	
Possession of Knife/Bladed Article	1	0	1	2	0	4
Possession of Offensive Weapon	0	2	0	0	1	3
Grand Total	1	2	1	2	1	7

Property Administration has provided the following figures relating to seizures of firearms and knives.

YEAR	FIREARMS	KNIVES
2014	1157	642
2015	998	620
2016	813	704
2017 (to date)	325	232