



NORFOLK
CONSTABULARY
Our Priority is You

July 2017

Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 005256/17

I write in connection with your request for information received by Norfolk Constabulary on the 7th June 2017 in which you sought access to the following information:

For 2015 and 2016 please provide the following information:

- 1 How many children (17 years of age and under) were stopped and searched by officers in your force? How many of these children were arrested? Please provide the data disaggregated by Age and Ethnicity.
- 2 What were the offences of those children who were subsequently arrested by officers in your force? Please provide details of what action was taken, if any, against the children who were arrested. Please provide the data disaggregated by Offence, Action Taken/Sanction, Type/Class of Drug (if applicable), Age and Ethnicity.

Response to your Request

When responding to a request for information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act (2000), 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 of the information you have requested would exceed cost in excess of £450.

The Constabulary estimates that it would take a minimum of 22 hours to retrieve the requested information. Research has been undertaken of the stop and search database in relation to children aged 17 or under and this has retrieved 134 records where a child has been arrested following a stop and search. Whilst the database holds details of the reason for the stop, it does not provide the reason for the arrest. To retrieve this information it would be necessary to cross-reference the names from the stop and search database with the custody system and locate the relevant arrest record.

Further research would be require to obtain the arrest outcome and the type of drug (where applicable).

It is estimated that it would take at least 10 minutes to carry out each manual check and this would 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 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 and 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.

Number of Stop and Search of Under 18s

Age	2015	2016
10	4	0
11	6	4
12	22	9
13	50	52
14	142	76
15	248	168
16	364	225
17	425	253
Total	1261	787

Police defined ethnicity of all U18s stop searched

2015	
Ethnicity	Number of searches
0 Not recorded/Not Known	15
1 White North European	1162
2 White South European	11
3 Black	60
4 Asian	8
5 Chinese, Japanese, Other South-East Asian	1
(blank)	4
Grand Total	1261

2016	
Ethnicity	Number of searches
0 Not recorded/Not Known	8
1 White North European	709

2 White South European	10
3 Black	48
4 Asian	7
5 Chinese, Japanese, Other South-East Asian	1
6 Arabic or North African	1
(blank)	3
Grand Total	787

Self-defined ethnicity for U18s stop searched

2015	
Self-defined ethnicity	Number of searches
A1 Indian	2
A2 Pakistani	2
A9 Other Asian	2
B1 Caribbean	6
B2 African	12
B9 Other Black	23
M1 White and Black Caribbean	6
M2 White and Black African	10
M3 White and Asian	2
M9 Any other Mixed	9
N1 Person Declines to Define Their Ethnicity	20
N2 Person Does Not Understand What Is Required	1
N3 Officer's Presence is Urgently Required Elsewhere	1
N4 Situation Involving Public Order	1
O9 Other	1
W1 British	1067
W9 Any other White Background	96
Grand Total	1261

2016	
Self-defined ethnicity	Number of searches
A1 Indian	1
A3 Bangladeshi	1
A9 Other Asian	2
B1 Caribbean	12
B2 African	4
B9 Other Black	12
M1 White and Black Caribbean	5
M2 White and Black African	3
M3 White and Asian	2
M9 Any other Mixed	7
N1 Person Declines to Define Their Ethnicity	24
N4 Situation Involving Public Order	1
W1 British	643

W2 Irish	1
W9 Any other White Background	69
Grand Total	787

Age of U18s arrested following stop search

Age	2015	2016
11	1	-
12	-	1
13	1	1
14	6	3
15	6	9
16	23	29
17	28	26
Total	65	69

Arrests following stop search of Under 18 – Police Defined Ethnicity

2015	
Ethnicity	Grand Total
1 White North European	54
3 Black	10
4 Asian	1
Grand Total	65

2016	
Ethnicity	Grand Total
1 White North European	57
2 White South European	2
3 Black	9
4 Asian	1
Grand Total	69

Arrests following stop search of Under 18 - self defined ethnicity

2015	
Self-defined ethnicity of person arrested	Grand Total
B1 Caribbean	3
B2 African	2
B9 Other Black	1
M1 White and Black Caribbean	1
M9 Any other Mixed	1
N1 Person Declines to Define Their Ethnicity	4
W1 British	50
W9 Any other White Background	3

Grand Total	65
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2016	
Self-defined ethnicity of person arrested	Grand Total
B1 Caribbean	1
B2 African	1
B9 Other Black	4
M1 White and Black Caribbean	1
M2 White and Black African	1
M3 White and Asian	1
N1 Person Declines to Define Their Ethnicity	6
W1 British	52
W9 Any other White Background	2
Grand Total	69