



February 2017

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 000539/17

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk Constabulary on the 17th January 2017 in which you sought access to the following information:

- 1 How many of reported cases of sexual offences involving the internet and grooming were reported in the last five years.
Could I please have a year by year breakdown

- 2 The age of the oldest person arrested on suspicion of sexual offences involving the internet and grooming
 - 2 a What they were arrested for and on what date
 - 2 b Were they charged

- 3 The age of the youngest person arrested on suspicion of sexual offences involving the internet and grooming
 - 3 a What they were arrested for and on what date
 - 3 b Were they charged

- 4 How many people were charged with sexual offences involving the internet and grooming
Could I have this as a year by year breakdown.

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 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, for the full period requested, we have contacted our Joint Performance and Analysis Department (JPAD). They have undertaken research of recorded crimes for sexual offences and this has returned 6,649 reports for the full period requested. To identify which of these have involved the use of the internet, each offence text would have to be manually reviewed. Based on an estimate of 3 minutes each, this would equate to over 330 hours.

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 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 relates to crimes and arrests for the offence of Grooming. Please note these have not been reviewed to see if they relate to the internet. Ages are based on the detainee age at the time of arrest.

Q1 Crimes for the offence of grooming.

Year	Number of Crimes
2012	2
2013	3
2014	10
2015	10
2016	7
Grand Total	32

Q2 The oldest person arrested for the offence of grooming was aged 73. The custody result shows no further action was taken.

Q3 There are 6 records for persons aged 18 who were arrested for grooming. Of these, 3 were resulted as ‘no further action’, 1 was charged and 2 released on bail.

Q4 The table below details all outcomes for those arrested for the offence of grooming.

Year	Disposal	Total
2012	Charged and Bailed To Court	1
	Charged and Detained For Court	1
	No Further Action	11
2013	Charged and Bailed To Court	2
	No Further Action	6
	Not recorded	1
2014	Bailed To Police Station	1
	Charged and Bailed To Court	3

	Charged and Detained For Court	1
	No Further Action	11
2015	Bailed To Police Station	6
	Charge	1
	Charged and Bailed To Court	1
	Charged and Detained For Court	1
	Refused Charge (NFA)	1
2016	Bail to Police Station	6
	Charge	4
	Refused Charge (NFA)	4
Grand Total		62