



NORFOLK
CONSTABULARY
Our Priority is You

February 2017

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 000541/17

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:

How many suspects have been identified with regards to online sexual offences (i.e... people who download and distribute indecent images of children) in 2016?

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 again carried out research relating to recorded crimes for the possession of indecent images of children. For 2016, this has returned 517 crimes. They have then carried out further research for those that have a 'cyber' indicator. This relies on the inputting the officer to choose this option when recording the crime details. This has reduced the number of crimes to 272. Based on these figures we believe it is likely that this has produced an inaccurate figure. Therefore we would need to review each crime to check whether there is an online element to the offence.

Based on just 3 minutes per crime report, 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.

We have provided below the total number of recorded crimes for 2014 to 2016. Please note – the figures previously provided have been re-run as JPAD has noticed that there was a discrepancy with the search criteria. This has slightly altered the original figures provided.

Offence Details	Number of Crimes
2014	
Possession Of An Indecent Or Pseudo Photograph Of A Child	73
Take Or To Make Indecent Photographs Or Pseudo-Photographs Of Children	79
2015	
Possessing prohibited images of children	5
Possession Of An Indecent Or Pseudo Photograph Of A Child	124
Take Or To Make Indecent Photographs Or Pseudo-Photographs Of Children	169
Take or to make or to distribute indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs, of children	54
2016	
Attempted - Take or to make or to distribute indecent photographs or pseudo- photographs, of children	5
Possessing prohibited images of children	6
Possession of an indecent or pseudo indecent photo of a child	94
Take or to make or to distribute indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs, of children	412
Total	1021