



March 2020

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 000555/20

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies on the 5th February 2020 in which you sought access to the following information:

- 1 How many Special Constables have you had since 2010?
- 2 How many Special Constable applications have you received since 2010?
- 3 What incentives and benefits are they offered (ie. tax benefits, public transportation discounts, other discounts on goods and services)?
- 4 What are the racial, religious, and gender demographic breakdowns of Special Constables?

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 14th February 2020.

Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies have 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 and Suffolk Constabularies estimates that to retrieve all the information you have requested for both forces would exceed cost in excess of £450 (per force).

The number of applications, going back to 2010, is not held electronically. However, it is possible that paper records are held but, due to the age of any records, to locate these would exceed the cost limit. It is likely that, if any information is held, it would be within our Deepstore facility. It is likely that the information would be held within other HR records and is therefore not easily identifiable and would require a manual trawl.

This would therefore exceed the appropriate limit for dealing with a Freedom of Information request, 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 and Suffolk Constabularies as £450 for each Constabulary, 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 Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies 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.

Q1

Year (as at)	NORFOLK	SUFFOLK
01/02/2020	203	143
01/02/2019	173	155
01/02/2018	195	183
01/02/2017	224	223
01/02/2016	249	248
01/02/2015	259	245
01/02/2014	242	243
01/02/2013	300	286
01/02/2012	324	312
01/02/2011	282	-

Q2

Applications	NORFOLK	SUFFOLK
2011/12	-	226
2012/13	-	179
2013/14	-	168
2014/15	161	183
2015/16	147	110
2016/17	114	128
2017/18	167	107
2018/19	174	124
2019/20 (to date)	138	74

Q4

Male	Female
NORFOLK	
148	55
SUFFOLK	
105	38

Religion	Number
NORFOLK	
Agnostic	8
Any other Religion	4

Atheism	8
Buddhist	1
Christian (all denominations)	58
Islam (Muslim)	1
No religion	73
Not known/not provided	23
(blank)	27
SUFFOLK	
Agnostic	2
Any other Religion	3
Atheism	5
Bahai	1
Christian (all denominations)	29
No religion	53
Not known/not provided	29
(blank)	21

Nationality	Number
NORFOLK	
Asian	2
Black	1
Mixed	1
Not Known	3
White British etc	193
White Other	3
SUFFOLK	
Asian	2
Mixed	3
Not Known	4
White British etc	126
White Other	8