



NORFOLK
CONSTABULARY
Our Priority is You

August 2017

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 005840/17

I write in connection with your request for information received by Norfolk Constabulary on the 25th July 2017 in which you sought access to the following information:

- 1 How many dogs were reported stolen in the past two years in Norfolk
- 2 How many of those dogs were found and returned to their owners
- 3 The average timescale for stolen dogs to be found
- 4 Where were they stolen from, ie. home, outbuilding, kennels, on a walk
- 5 What areas of Norfolk were they stolen from, is there a pattern/hot spot
- 6 What breeds of dogs are being stolen, if any particular breed is being targeted
- 7 What were the ages of the dogs reported as stolen
- 8 Where were the dogs found, ie. still in the county or elsewhere in the UK or abroad
- 9 How many owners put up rewards and for how much – lowest to highest
- 10 How many dogs returned to owners were as a result of rewards being put up
- 11 How many dogs were returned to owners as a result of being microchipped or tattooed
- 12 How many offenders were arrested as a result of stealing dogs
- 13 How many successful prosecutions have been achieved as a result of offenders being charged with theft of dogs
- 14 What sentences have been awarded to those found guilty of theft of dogs and what is the maximum sentence available
- 15 What priority is given to cases of dogs reported stolen by police
- 16 Are there officers in the force specifically targeting dog theft and if so, how many

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.

In order to establish what relevant information is held we have contacted our Joint Performance and Analysis Department. They have undertaken research of theft related recorded crimes in 2015 and 2016 where the property type stolen is 'dog'. This has identified 70 crime reports. 6 hours of research has currently been completed and it is estimated that to respond to the remaining parts of your request would exceed 18 hours. Details of any rewards offered and details of the circumstances of recovered dogs may be recorded within the crime reports and each would need further manual review.

The details of recorded crimes, broken down by breed and age have been provided below.

As advised, providing all of the requested information 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.

Year	Number of Dogs Stolen
2015	55
2016	22
Grand Total	77

Year / Breed	Number of Dogs Stolen
2015	55
Border Terrier X Lakeland Terrier	1
Boston Terrier	1
Bull Terrier	1
Chihuahua	1
Chihuahua X Pug	1
Chihuahua X Yorkshire Terrier	1
Cavalier King Charles Spaniel	5
Cocker Spaniel	1
Great Dane	2
Greyhound	1
Husky X German Shepherd	1
Jack Russell X Chihuahua	1
Jack Russell X Staffordshire Bull Terrier	1
Kerry Blue Terrier	1
Labrador Cross	1
Labrador Retriever	2
Lurcher	6

Mastiff	1
Patterdale Terrier	1
Poodle X Schnauzer	1
Pug	4
Rottweiler	1
Samoyed	9
Shar Pei	1
Sprocker Spaniel	2
Staffordshire Bull Terrier	4
Tibetan Terrier	1
West Highland Terrier	1
Yorkshire Terrier	1
2016	22
Chihuahua	1
Cocker Spaniel	8
Jack Russell X Terrier	1
JackRussell X Lakeland Terrier X Patterdale	1
Jack Russell	2
Jack Russell/Schnauser	1
Lurcher	1
Pug	1
Rhodesian Ridge-back	1
Rottweiler	2
Springer Spaniel	1
Springer X Jack Russell	1
Staffy	1
Grand Total	77

Age of Dog	Number of Dogs Stolen
2015	55
Not Recorded	33
4 Weeks Old	3
2 Years Old	2
4 Years Old	2
1 Year Old	2
12 Years Old	1
13 Years Old	1
18 Weeks Old	1
2.5 Years Old	1
4 Months Old	1
5 Months Old	1

6 to 8 Weeks Old	1
6 Years Old	1
9 Weeks Old	1
9 Years Old	1
10 Weeks Old	3
2016	22
Not Recorded	4
9 Days Old	1
7 Weeks Old	7
8 Weeks Old	1
6 Months Old	1
10 Months Old	2
12 Months Old	1
2 Years Old	1
3 Years Old	2
6 Years Old	1
10 Years Old	1
Grand Total	77

Please note, statistical information regarding court outcomes are held by the HM Courts & Tribunals Service.