



**NORFOLK**  
CONSTABULARY  
*Our Priority is You*

August 2017

### **Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 005856/17**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Norfolk Constabulary on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017 in which you sought access to the following information:

- 1 Number of domestic violence protection notices (DVPNs) issued by superintendents (or higher ranked officers) for each day for your region for the period 08 March 2014 to 31 March 2017 inclusive. If daily information is not available, please provide monthly information.
- 2 Number of domestic violence protection orders (DVPOs) issued by the court for each day for your region for the period 08 March 2014 to 31 March 2017 inclusive. If daily information is not available, please provide monthly information.
- 3 Number of DVPN/DVPOs breached for each month for the period 08 March 2014 to 31 March 2017 inclusive.
- 4 For each year from 2009 to 2017 (to date) inclusive, how many domestic abuse specialist officers were employed in your force.
- 5 For each year from 2009 to 2017 (to date) inclusive, whether your force had a dedicated domestic abuse unit, whether specialist officers were part of a general public protection unit, or whether they were part of some other unit.

### **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 Norfolk Constabulary estimates that to retrieve all the information you have requested would exceed cost in excess of £450. The information you have requested in part 4, is not held in any easily retrievable format. In order to identify those officers and staff who have been employed in either the Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit or the Domestic Abuse Safeguarding Team, since 2009, would require the manual trawl of HR records.

There are currently approximately 2,400 officers and staff employed by Norfolk Constabulary. Therefore this would be an enormous task which would significantly 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.

Q1-3

Year	Month	DVPNs Served	DVPO's Granted	DVPN Breaches	DVPO Breaches	
<b>2014</b>	March	0	0	0	0	
	April	0	0	0	0	
	May	0	0	0	0	
	June	2	2	0	0	
	July	6	6	0	3	
	August	0	0	0	1	
	September	7	7	0	1	
	October	2	2	1	1	
	November	2	2	0	0	
	December	0	0	0	0	
	<b>2015</b>	January	2	2	0	0
		February	4	3	0	1
March		4	4	0	2	
April		5	4	0	0	
May		5	5	0	2	
June		2	1	0	0	
July		1	0	0	0	
August		1	1	0	0	
September		4	4	0	1	
October		0	0	0	1	
November		0	0	0	0	
December		3	2	1	0	
<b>2016</b>	January	1	1	0	2	
	February	5	4	1		
	March	1	1	0	6	
	April	1	1	0	7	
	May	3	3	0	7	

	June	1	1	0	1
	July	1	1	0	1
	August	2	2	0	0
	September	3	3	0	1
	October	0	0	0	0
	November	2	1	0	0
	December	2	2	0	0
<b>2017</b>	January	4	3	0	0
	February	4	4	0	0
	March	7	7	0	2

Q4 The current establishment of the DAST is:-  
1 x Detective Inspector  
3.5 x Detective Sergeant  
6.5 x Detective Constable  
13.5 x Case Investigators  
All figures are Full Time Equivalents (FTE)

Q5 In 2009 there were a small number of detectives within the Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit (DAIU) based at various geographical locations within Norfolk. They were responsible for the investigation of high risk domestic crimes including rapes and serious assaults. They were supported by a team of Case Investigators and a DS in the Domestic Abuse Safeguarding Team (DAST), who carried out secondary risk assessments and safeguarding work with victims. It was not possible for the DAIU to deal with all high risk domestic cases so they would very often be supported by officers from within the County Policing Command (CPC), CID or the Rape Investigation Unit (RIU).

In 2011 a decision was taken that the best use of expertise in domestic abuse cases lay within Safeguarding so the DAIU was incorporated into the DAST. From this point on domestic abuse crimes were investigated by the most appropriate unit depending upon the type of criminality involved i.e. CID, RIU, CPC or the Custody Investigation Unit (CIU). Whilst these units now carry out the criminal investigations, the DAST provides specialised secondary risk assessment and safeguarding work. This often involves joint working with partner agencies including Children's Services and the Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs). The DAST has grown over this time period to cope with the increased number of domestic abuse crimes and incidents. The staff numbers are as shown above, with the vast majority of these being co-located with partner agencies in the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in Norwich.