



NORFOLK
CONSTABULARY
Our Priority is You

September 2017

Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 006037/17

I write in connection with your request for information received by Norfolk Constabulary on the 10th August 2017 in which you sought access to the following information:

I am writing to request the number of arrests, cautions and charges made in relation to cannabis offences in the past five years in the area covered by the force. If you do not retain data for the last five years, I would like as many years as you do retain data for.

If you do not hold data this far back, please provide the years you do have data for.

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.

In order to establish what information is held, relevant to your request, we have contacted our Joint Performance and Analysis Department. They have advised that the custody database, which was in use until October 2015, does not record the specific offences in an easily retrievable format. The custody record would show that the arrest was in relation to a 'drug offence' but it would be necessary to review each of these to identify those which relate to the possession of cannabis.

This would require the review of thousands of arrests records which would significantly 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 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 Joint Performance and Analysis Department has provided figures for the number of **crimes** of cannabis possession where the offender has been either cautioned or charged. Please note the figures below have been extracted from the Constabulary's crime database which was in use up until 19th October 2015 only.

Year	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
Offence	Possession Of Cannabis	Possession Of Cannabis With Intent to Supply	Possession Of Cannabis	Possession Of Cannabis With Intent to Supply	Possession Of Cannabis	Possession Of Cannabis With Intent to Supply	Possession Of Cannabis	Possession Of Cannabis With Intent to Supply	Possession Of Cannabis	Possession Of Cannabis With Intent to Supply
Number of Individuals Cautioned	181	5	201	3	314	14	343	8	210	3
Number of Individuals Charged	299	45	275	54	292	69	315	80	181	22

Please see below **arrest** information which has been extracted from the custody system and covers the period 20th October 2015 to 31st December 2016:-

Date & Outcome	Number of Arrests
2015	Partial Total = 166
October	
Drugs - Cult. Cannabis	1
Charge	1
Drugs - Possess Class B or C	7
Adult Caution	4
Charge	3
Drugs - Prod. Cannabis	2
Adult Caution	2
November	
Drugs - Cult. Cannabis	1
Charge	1
Drugs - Possess Class B or C	32
Adult Caution	12
Charge	20

Drugs - Prod. Cannabis	3
Adult Caution	1
Charge	2
December	
Drugs - Cult. Cannabis	1
Charge	1
Drugs - Possess Class B or C	32
Adult Caution	6
Charge	26
Drugs - Prod. Cannabis	4
Charge	4
2016	Total = 894
January	
Drugs - Cult. Cannabis	3
Adult Caution	2
Charge	1
Drugs - Possess Class B or C	29
Adult Caution	8
Charge	21
Drugs - Prod. Cannabis	4
Adult Caution	1
Charge	3
February	
Drugs - Cult. Cannabis	1
Charge	1
Drugs - Possess Class B or C	22
Adult Caution	5
Charge	17
Drugs - Prod. Cannabis	2
Charge	2
March	
Drugs - Cult. Cannabis	8
Adult Caution	2
Charge	6
Drugs - Possess Class B or C	32
Adult Caution	12
Charge	20
Drugs - Prod. Cannabis	1
Charge	1
April	
Drugs - Cult. Cannabis	4
Adult Caution	1

Charge	3
Drugs - Possess Class B or C	34
Adult Caution	12
Charge	22
Drugs - Prod. Cannabis	1
Charge	1
May	
Drugs - Cult. Cannabis	4
Adult Caution	2
Charge	2
Drugs - Possess Class B or C	27
Adult Caution	13
Charge	14
Drugs - Prod. Cannabis	2
Adult Caution	1
Charge	1
June	
Drugs - Cult. Cannabis	4
Charge	4
Drugs - Possess Class B or C	27
Adult Caution	10
Charge	17
Drugs - Prod. Cannabis	2
Charge	2
July	
Drugs - Cult. Cannabis	3
Charge	3
Drugs - Possess Class B or C	37
Adult Caution	12
Charge	25
Drugs - Prod. Cannabis	3
Charge	3
August	
Drugs - Cult. Cannabis	1
Charge	1
Drugs - Possess Class B or C	28
Adult Caution	7
Charge	21
September	
Drugs - Cult. Cannabis	5
Adult Caution	3
Charge	2

Drugs - Possess Class B or C	34
Adult Caution	7
Charge	27
Drugs - Prod. Cannabis	2
Adult Caution	1
Charge	1
October	
Drugs - Cult. Cannabis	1
Adult Caution	1
Drugs - Possess Class B or C	50
Adult Caution	13
Charge	37
Drugs - Prod. Cannabis	1
Charge	1
November	
Drugs - Cult. Cannabis	5
Adult Caution	3
Charge	2
Drugs - Possess Class B or C	32
Adult Caution	6
Charge	26
December	
Drugs - Cult. Cannabis	8
Adult Caution	2
Charge	6
Drugs - Possess Class B or C	28
Adult Caution	11
Charge	17
Drugs - Prod. Cannabis	2
Adult Caution	1
Charge	1