



September 2017

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 006108/17

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary on the 15th August 2017 in which you sought access to the following information:

- 1 Does your constabulary use dash cam footage in:
 - A motoring offence prosecutions
 - B solving other non-motoring crimes
 - C any other reasons not identified here

- 2 If yes to Q1a, b or c., what number of submissions of dash cam footage
 - A directly contribute to offenders being charged
 - B provides supporting evidence to make a case against an offender

- 3 Does your constabulary have a specific project, e.g. Operation SNAP (<https://www.north-wales.police.uk/contact/minor-incident-reporting/op-snap>), in place to receive dash cam footage from the general public?
Op Snap - Report Incidents Online - Contact - North Wales ...
www.north-wales.police.uk
Op Snap What is Operation SNAP? North Wales Police have been busy over the past few months bringing together Operation SNAP. This is our response to increasing ...

- 4 If yes to Q3, how do you analyse the footage?

- 5 Does your constabulary have adequate resources for receiving the volume of dash cam footage submitted, and cataloguing it appropriately?

- 6 Has the constabulary's ability to deal with the volume of dash cam footage submitted by the general public been compromised by the cuts to police funding?

- 7 How much in manpower and budget has the constabulary committed to staffing a dash cam public submission programme?

- 8 How much has been saved in police budget and resource by introducing a dash cam public submission programme?

- 9 Please provide figures for the following table PER MONTH and level of prosecution for the dates September 2015 to August 2017

Crime	Numbers of offenders charged	Numbers of offenders prosecuted	Number of offenders convicted	Numbers of offenders charged w/ dash cam
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Numbers of offenders prosecuted w/ dash cam
Numbers of offenders convicted w/ dash cam

- drink driving
- driving without due care and attention
- driving without a licence
- driving without insurance
- driving with a revoked licence
- for careless driving
- for reckless driving
- for manslaughter
- for murder
- for theft/burglary
- for ABH/GBH/A&B

- 10 Of those cases in which dash cams have been used for evidence:
- A How many offenders were charged after the dash cam footage was submitted more than once?
- B how many offenders have been prosecuted following an online community highlighting poor driving?

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 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 Joint Roads Policing and Firearms Operations Unit has advised that information regarding questions 2, 9 and 10, is not held in easily retrievable format. To provide figures for the number of investigations and prosecutions, where dashcam footage has been used, it would be necessary to review all records as there is no way to electronically identify cases. This would be an enormous task which would significantly exceed the cost limit for each Constabulary.

As advised, responding to these parts of your request, would 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 and 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 Yes, both Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies use dashcam footage where available and accessible. This is most likely to be in relation to motoring offences but will be used in crime and incident enquiries in the same way that CCTV will be utilised.
- Q3 In Suffolk, the public have been able to submit footage via the Incident & Crime Management Hub, for assessment, since April 2016. Since mid 2017 both Norfolk and Suffolk utilise a system where the public can directly upload dashcam footage and supporting statements via the force websites. This is then reviewed and assessed by staff within the Joint Roads Policing and Firearms Operations Unit.

Please see links below:-

<http://www.norfolk.police.uk/contact-us/report-something/dashboard-camera-report-form>

<http://www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us/report-something/dashboard-camera-report-form>

- Q4 A member of the Roads Policing Unit reviews the footage and makes a decision as to whether the driver should be prosecuted, if it is suitable for education either by driver training courses (instead of prosecution) or via advice letters to highlight the report and encourage the driver to moderate and consider their behaviour.
- Q5 At this time both Constabularies have the adequate resources for storage and receipt of the volume of dashcams received now and in the future if volume increases.
- Q6 This information is not specifically held. The development and implementation of the system, to allow the public to upload footage, has reduced the requirement for front line officers to attend an address to see the reporting person. The officers reviewing the footage are able to make an informed decision and prosecute as necessary.
- Q7&8 This information is not held. The staffing to review footage is from existing resources.