



March 2020

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 000701/20

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies on the 17th February 2020 in which you sought access to the following information:

Please could you tell me how many assaults in care homes were reported to Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary in the following years. (a) 2017 (b) 2018 (c) 2019 (d) 2020.

For each report could you please provide a brief summary of the report, the location of the care home and any action the police took in response?

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 18th 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.

Research has been undertaken of recorded offences of assault where the location is a care/nursing home. This has returned a total of 285 crime reports across Norfolk and Suffolk for the full period requested. To provide an accurate response, each of these would need to be checked as many of the locations do not provide the name of a care home. A dip sample indicates that the results are not accurate and do not all relate to a care/nursing home.

It should also be noted that there may be other crimes where the location of care/nursing home has not been correctly selected.

To review each crime would exceed the cost 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, 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 Constabularies obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, we have supplied information, relative 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.

Research has been undertaken of recorded crimes of violence offences where the premises type is 'Care/Nursing Home'. Please see figures below:

Offence Title	Norfolk	Suffolk	Total
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (ABH)	40	12	52
Assault on a female by penetration (Indictable)	1	1	2
Assault or assault by beating of a constable	1	0	1
Assault or assault by beating of an emergency worker (except a constable)	4	1	5
Assault without Injury - Common assault and battery	162	42	204
Assault without injury on a constable (Police Act offence)	5	1	6
Sexual assault on a female	11	4	15
Total	224	61	285