



December 2017

Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 007119/17

I write in connection with your request for information received by Norfolk Constabulary on the 3rd November 2017 in which you sought access to the following information:

For each individual year from 2006 to 2017:

The number of cars seized from drivers for:

- Driving without insurance
- Other road traffic offences
- Drug-related offences
- Other offences not covered about

The number of cars then:

- Returned to owners after payment of fines and proof of insurance tendered
- Returned to owners for other reasons
- Returned to owners due to mistaken seizure under car insurance legislation
- Returned to owners due to mistaken seizure for other reasons
- Scrapped (sent for recycling or crushing)
- Sold

Make, model and year of cars:

- Scrapped
- Sold

The annual income from:

- Cars sold via auction or other means open to private and trade buyers
- Cars sent for scrapping, recycling and crushing

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 information is held relevant to your request, we have contacted our Property Management and Vehicle Recovery Coordinator. If the Constabulary requires a vehicle to be removed or seized in accordance with police powers, or those laid down in legislation, this is carried out by our Vehicle Recovery Operators, under our Managed Vehicle Recovery Scheme with AADL. If a vehicle requires disposal (and reasons for this are varied) the Recovery Operator under the conditions of the scheme will arrange disposal which will be via auction (if the vehicle

has a minimum value) or it will be collected by the Central Salvage Contractor who then carries out disposal via scrappage etc.

We have been advised that some information is held from 2012 onwards but to respond to all of your questions would significantly exceed the 18 hour cost limit. We have provided below details of the reasons why vehicles have been seized but this information is not to the level of detail that you have requested, IE, whether it is in relation to a drug offence. Additionally it would exceed the cost limit to identify the reasons why a vehicle has or hasn't been returned to it's owner.

As advised above, to complete all relevant research in relation to your request 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 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.

Reason for Seizure	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 - to Oct
Abandoned	22	33	43	53	95	97
Antisocial Use (Section 59 Police Reform Act)	33	30	35	23	8	17
Breakdown	39	31	12	0	0	0
Burn out	21	24	18	29	22	23
Obstruction/Danger	139	150	186	240	267	216
Olympic Torch Relay	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other	35	24	7	0	0	0
Out of Force Recovery	1	0	0	0	0	0
Owners Request	62	94	54	68	281	159
PACE/Crime	420	414	357	276	416	405
PG9 Unroadworthy	3	2	0	0	0	0
Police Vehicle Recovery *	431	269	591	648	667	493
Police Vehicle Repair	316	292	167	N/A	N/A	N/A
Police Vehicle Transfer	131	268	106	N/A	N/A	N/A
Prisoner Vehicles	Not Recorded	Not Recorded	9	23	5	1
Property	12	18	12	0	0	0

RTC	1541	1436	1591	1702	1642	1326
RTC (Life Altering/Serious Injury/Fatal)	128	145	115	79	97	57
Sensitive Recovery	7	5	5	0	0	0
Stolen	186	242	167	181	213	215
Stolen Abandoned	8	0	11	39	34	34
Trading Standards	0	0	0	1	0	0
Uninsured (S165A Road Traffic Act 1988)	971	975	938	1017	1447	1396
Uninsured and Unlicensed (S165A Road Traffic Act 1988)	94	95	99	114	149	147
Unlicensed (S165A Road Traffic Act 1988)	100	88	109	132	153	112
Revenue and Customs	0	3	7	12	9	5
TOTAL	4702	4638	4639	4637	5505	4703

* from the beginning of the new Recovery Contract with AADL the number of police vehicle recoveries are recorded as one number hence the increase from mid 2014.

Please see below figures to date concerning the number of vehicles disposed of, those sent to auction and the income submitted from those auctions to Norfolk Constabulary, once the Vehicle Recovery Operators have deducted any outstanding statutory recovery fees, storage fees, etc. Funds paid to the Constabulary are retained in the event there are any subsequent claims made by the vehicle owners and the sale proceeds have to be repaid. Any income received from scrapping of vehicles is paid directly to the Vehicle Recovery Operators and we hold no information on that.

2012 – data up until end of November 2012, there is no data held for December 2012 due to a change in service provider

463 vehicles disposed of

12 disposed of via auction

Proceeds to Norfolk Constabulary from auction sale - £2,216.00

2013 –

701 vehicles disposed of

13 disposed of via auction

Proceeds to Norfolk Constabulary from auction sale - £2,658.00

2014 –

620 vehicles disposed of

14 disposed of via auction

Proceeds to Norfolk Constabulary from auction sales - £12,067.00

2015 –

778 vehicles disposed of

16 disposed of via auction

Proceeds to Norfolk Constabulary from auction sales - £4,984.82

2016 –

1,479 vehicles disposed of

49 disposed of via auction

Proceeds to Norfolk Constabulary from auction sales - £20,615.56

2017 –

1,188 vehicles disposed of

101 disposed of via auction

Proceeds to Norfolk Constabulary from auction sales - £20,803.68