



NORFOLK
CONSTABULARY
Our Priority is You

November 2017

Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 007192/17

I write in connection with your request for information received by Norfolk Constabulary on the 8th November 2017 in which you sought access to the following information:

- 1 How many requests have been made under the disclosure scheme for domestic abuse or 'Clare's law' since it was introduced in 2014?
 - 2 How many disclosures were made?
 - 3 How many requests were rejected and what reasons were given?
- Please break the data down by calendar year

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 relevant information is held, we have contacted our Safeguarding and Investigations Command. They have been able to advise on the number of requests received and the number which have been refused or withdrawn. To provide the details of each rejection/withdrawal would exceed the 18 hour limit. It is estimated that it would take approximately 15 minutes to review each one. Since 2014 there have been 145 resulting in no disclosure and 58 withdrawn applications.

Reviewing each of these would exceed the appropriate limit for dealing with a Freedom of Information request, in terms of cost, 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 response provided below is correct as of 17th November 2017.

Q1

Year	Number of Requests
2014	50
2015	66
2016	210
2017 (to 30 th Oct)	269

Q2

Year	Number of Disclosures
2014	15
2015	27
2016	134
2017 (to 30 th Oct)	111