



NORFOLK
CONSTABULARY
Our Priority is You

January 2020

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 000075/20

I write in connection with your request for information received by Norfolk Constabulary on the 7th January 2020 in which you sought access to the following information:

Could you please tell me the number of homegrown cannabis factories/farms discovered by Norfolk Constabulary in the county over the ten-year period from January 1, 2010, to December 31, 2019?

Can the entries please be arranged in chronological date order, with each including the location of the factory, number of plants and/or area covered, monetary value and the legal outcome (e.g. arrest/charge/conviction/no further action).

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 15th January 2020.

Norfolk Constabulary has considered your request and our response is below.

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.

During the period requested, the Constabulary has recorded 621 crimes in relation to the production of cannabis offences. In order to obtain the details of the number of plants/area covered and any estimated monetary value, it would be necessary to read through the details of every report. With an estimate of 5 minutes each, this would exceed 51 hours.

This would 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.

The number of recorded crimes for cannabis production have been provided below.

Year and Month	Produce Cannabis a Class C controlled Drug	Production or being concerned in production of a controlled drug - Class B - Cannabis	Total
2010		6	6
March		1	1
August		1	1
November		3	3
December		1	1
2011		2	2
May		1	1
October		1	1
2012		4	4
March		1	1
June		1	1
September		1	1
November		1	1
2013		3	3
March		1	1
May		1	1
September		1	1
2014		5	5
March		2	2
April		1	1
October		1	1
November		1	1
2015		64	64
January		2	2
February		1	1
May		1	1
September		1	1
October		5	5
November		31	31
December		23	23

2016		129	129
January		11	11
February		5	5
March		15	15
April		11	11
May		10	10
June		10	10
July		13	13
August		7	7
September		12	12
October		13	13
November		6	6
December		16	16
2017	1	129	130
January	1	10	11
February		14	14
March		8	8
April		10	10
May		13	13
June		11	11
July		10	10
August		12	12
September		14	14
October		13	13
November		5	5
December		9	9
2018		145	145
January		11	11
February		12	12
March		10	10
April		12	12
May		18	18
June		16	16
July		7	7
August		16	16
September		9	9
October		18	18
November		9	9
December		7	7
2019		133	133
January		11	11
February		12	12

March		18	18
April		11	11
May		9	9
June		10	10
July		16	16
August		5	5
September		13	13
October		10	10
November		9	9
December		9	9
Total	1	620	621

The crime outcomes have been provided below. Some offences will still be under investigation.

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Not Recorded	6	2	4	1	2	1		2	5	33	56
Type 1 - Charged/Summoned/Postal Requisition					2	47	50	67	54	34	254
Type 10 - Formal Action Against Offender is not in the Public Interest (Police)				1			3	1	6	5	16
Type 12 - Prosecution Prevented- Named Suspect Identified But Is Too Ill (Physical Or Mental Health) To Prosecute									1		1
Type 14 - Evidential Difficulties Victim Based- Suspect Not Identified: Crime Confirmed But The Victim Either Declines Or Unable To Support Further Police Investigation To Identify The Offender								2	1		3
Type 15 - Named Suspect Identified: Victim Supports Police Action But Evidential Difficulties Prevent Further Action						5	9	8	17	4	43
Type 16 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties Prevent Further Action: Victim Does Not Support (Or Has Withdrawn Support From) Police Action						2		1	2	3	8
Type 18 - Investigation Complete; No Suspect Identified. Crime Investigated As Far As Reasonably Possible-Case Closed Pending Further Investigative Opportunities Becoming Available							8	7	17	7	39
Type 1A - Charged/Summons - alternate offence. Offender has been charged under the alternate offence rule.						2			2	1	5
Type 21 - Further investigation resulting from crime report which could provide evidence sufficient to support formal action against the suspect is not in the public interest -							1				1

police decision.											
Type 3 - Caution Adult					1	5	54	37	37	42	176
Type 5 - Offender has died								3	2		5
Type 6 - Penalty notice for disorder						2					2
Type 7 - Cannabis/Khat Warning							4	1		3	8
Type 8 - Community resolution (Crime)								1	1	1	3
Type 9 - Not in the Public Interest				1							1
Total	6	2	4	3	5	64	129	130	145	133	621