



January 2020

## Freedom of Information Request Reference N<sup>o</sup>: FOI 000007/20

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2020 in which you sought access to the following information:

- 1 The number of reported peer-on-peer sexual offences on school premises involving under 18s. Please provide the figures per year within the following calendar years: 2019, 2018 and 2017
  - If possible under FOI laws, in each instance may you please provide further information on the nature of the assault i.e rape, indecent exposure, inappropriate touching
  - If possible under FOI laws, in each instance, may you please outline whether the accused individual was under or over the age of 10
- 2 The number of peer-on-peer sexual offences on school premises that resulted in an arrest. Please provide the figures per year within the following calendar years: 2019, 2018 and 2017
- 3 The number of peer-on-peer sexual offences on school premises that resulted in charges / summons. Please provide the figures per year within the following calendar years: 2019, 2018 and 2017

## Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 9<sup>th</sup> January 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 (per force).

Research has been undertaken of recorded crimes in relation to sexual offences where the location has been recorded as a school. This has returned 504 crime reports for the period requested.

In order to confirm if these were peer-on-peer offences, we have looked at records where both the victim and suspect have a recorded date of birth which shows them as under 18. Unfortunately,

many of the reports do not have any date of birth recorded. In order to provide you with an accurate response, in relation to confirming the location of the offence was a school and if the victim and suspect were both under 18, we would need to read through each crime report. We estimate that this would take 5 minutes each.

Based on the number of crimes, this 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 & 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 crimes of sexual offences where the location has been recorded as a school.

The following figures are for those crimes where a recorded date of birth shows that both the victim and suspect was under 18.

Nature of Offence	2017	2018	2019	Total
<b>Norfolk Constabulary</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>104</b>
Assault on a female by penetration	0	0	2	2
Attempted rape	2	0	0	2
Causing a child to watch a sexual act	1	0	1	2
Causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity	1	3	1	5
Exposure	0	0	1	1
Rape	4	2	3	9
Sexual activity with a child	0	4	0	4
Sexual assault	29	24	26	79
<b>Suffolk Constabulary</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>98</b>
Assault of a female child	1	1	1	3
Assault on a female	1	1	0	2
Attempted - Sexual assault on a female	0	1	0	1

Causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity	3	9	4	16
Exposure	1	2	1	4
Rape	8	3	6	17
Sexual activity with a child	6	3	4	13
Sexual assault	13	14	11	38
Voyeurism	0	3	1	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>202</b>